FREE

WEEKLY FREE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

EDF ENERGY London and South of England Media Awards

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk August 23, 2015

North & West edition No 674



EDUCATION

Facing up to life after GCSE results

Delight and despair for our students

HEALTH

Search and rescue flies into a new era

Find out how we're being protected from the skies

IMMIGRATION

Has she done enough?

Extra police to head to France in bid to crack down on Calais problems

TRANSPORT

Toilet threat remains of Stack on M20

Portaloos could prove a death trap on busy motorways



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Never forget the loss of our nation's innocence

THE 75th anniversary of the 'Hardest Day' of the Battle of Britain was marked in a dignified manner this week - a spectacular procession of Spitfires and Hurricanes taking to the skies and soaring above our green and pleasant land.

Of course, many youngsters point to just the latest in a long line of war anniversaries and wonder why, so many years later, we continue to hark back to such conflicts.

The reality, of course, is that the survivors of these mighty battles are fast disappearing and it remains important their remarkable efforts are not forgotten.

But perhaps more sobering, for those who have just got their GCSEs or A-levels, is that 75 years ago, people their age were, instead, receiving not exam results but their call-up papers. Their future would be uncertain; many cut down - their dreams and ambitions destroyed by the bullet or the bomb. The average age of those who flew in the Battle of Britain was just 20. Ponder that just for a moment.

Imagine your children or grandchildren having to leave the protective comfort of the family home not to seek their fortune in the world, but to fight for its very future amid the tearing of metal and flesh.

That is the lesson we must never allow ourselves to forget. We may consider ourselves a modern, civilised society, but so did generations in the 1930s and 40s.

Peace is something we now take for granted. And it is for that reason, to learn the lessons from the past, that these anniversaries, which remind us of the bravery as well as the sheer horror of what could have been - and what in many tragic cases was - remain so very important.

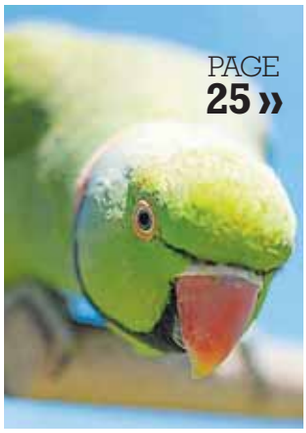


Editor **Chris Britcher**

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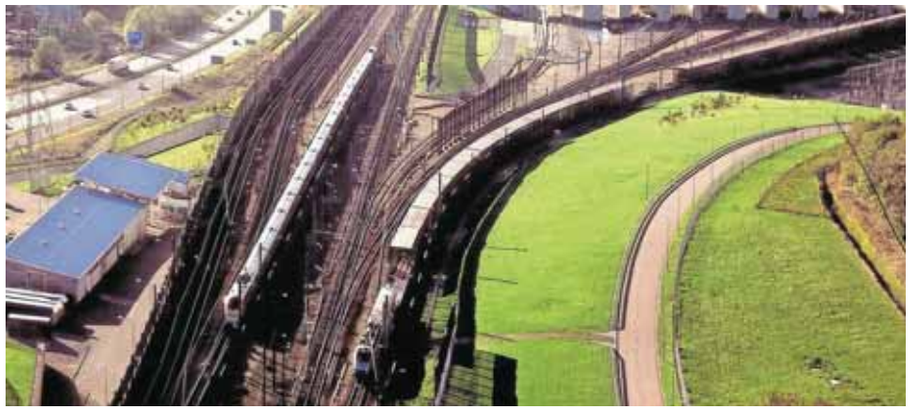
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seven days

Stories which made the headlines **@kentnews.co.uk** during the past week

Op Stack less likely after new Anglo-French deal

By Jamie Weir
jamie.weir@archant.co.uk



SECURE: The Channel Tunnel will be more difficult for migrants to storm after the new partnership deal

OPERATION Stack could be a thing of the past according to Eurotunnel bosses after home secretary Theresa May signed a deal with her French counterpart to tackle the migrant crisis in Calais.

Mrs May travelled through Kent to reach the Coquelles Eurotunnel terminal to sign the partnership agreement, which will see the two governments work together to crack down on attempts to get to the UK by migrants.

In recent months migrants storming the Eurotunnel terminal have forced cross-Channel rail services to stop. That has led to severe delays, with Operation Stack being repeatedly put in place to deal with the backlog of freight traffic.

The new deal will see British police work alongside French officers to patrol the entrance from a new 'control and command' centre.

Eurotunnel's public affairs director John Keefe told KoS the new deal was good news for people in Kent.

He said: "For Eurotunnel this is very good news. The two governments working together, and also with us will make a real difference.

"We're already seeing a significant change after the governments paid for extra security measures, and people in Kent will have noticed this, because they have proved very effective meaning no Operation Stack."

The Eurotunnel spokesman was pleased a longer term solution was being sought, after Mrs May talked about the migrants' camp at Calais – which houses around 3,000 people – being the 'symptom of a wider problem'.

He said: "The two governments are also going to be working on migrant flows, which is what we have always said is the big issue.

"With that co-operation, we're hopeful that a longer term solution will be found which will ensure the tunnel is secure, and the root cause is dealt with.

"We're very pleased to be running a full freight service right now, which is as reliable as it has always been and which means that Operation Stack is not needed."

The new deal between the two governments means that there will not only be extra boots on the ground, there will also be additional security with new CCTV and infrared technology enhancing tunnel security.

Blow as festival at the Hop Farm is cancelled just weeks before event

THE High Definition Festival – set to have taken place at the Hop Farm in Paddock Wood next month – has been cancelled.

Organisers are still attempting to find a new home, but with just two weeks before the dance event was due to take place, hopes are fading for the thousands of ticket holders.

The plug was pulled after organisers were unable to satisfy the needs of the licence the venue has to stage such events.

A statement issued by the Hop Farm said: "It is with deep regret the Hop Farm has to announce the cancellation of HD (High Definition) festival which was due to take place on September 5-6.

"We understand that this has caused disappointment among fans, ticket holders and of course ourselves, but unfortunately the Hop Farm was left in a position where its event licence was in serious jeopardy.

"The Hop Farm has a good relationship, and works closely, with the council and nearby residents to provide responsible events and in doing so it keeps within the parameters set out in its licence.

"The organisers of the HD Festival failed to sufficiently evidence that these parameters had been met and on time in order for the event to proceed.

"Ticketholders should contact the HD Festival for any further information concerning tickets and/or the event and not the Hop Farm."

The website for the event has been reduced to just a logo.

The event has had a difficult 2015. Originally scheduled to take place at Eridge Park, near Tunbridge Wells, it was forced to relocate earlier this summer.

It becomes the latest major festival to flounder at the Paddock Wood venue.

Two incarnations of the Hop Farm Festival failed to sell the tickets needed to turn a profit – due to no failing of the venue – despite pulling in big names such as Prince.

Paul O'Grady pays moving final farewell to 'our Cilla'

COMIC and TV presenter Paul O'Grady read a moving eulogy at the funeral of his close friend Cilla Black on Thursday, as the hugely popular entertainer was laid to rest in her beloved Liverpool.

Mr O'Grady, who lives in Aldington, near Ashford, joined a host of stars at the event.

The singer and host of TV shows Blind Date and Surprise, Surprise, Ms Black, 72, died earlier this month after a fall at her Spanish villa.

The funeral took place in St Mary's Church in Woolton - the same church where she married Bobby Willis in 1969. When he died in 1999, Ms Black never fully recovered from the loss.

Other famous faces taking part in the ceremony included Sir Cliff Richard and Jimmy Tarbuck.

Jail for fraudster who stole £1m from oil and gas firm

A PAYROLL officer has been jailed for more than five years for a £1million fraud.

Pauline Barrett, 55, of Haywain Close, Kingsnorth, Ashford, has been sentenced to five years and eight months' imprisonment for stealing the cash from an oil and gas company at which she worked.

She pleaded guilty to one count of fraud by abuse of position.

Barrett had edited emails from Saipem Limited's accountants so that it appeared that they were receiving demands for payment from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

Between November 2010 and September 2014, some 28 payments totalling £1.3m were paid into Barrett's personal bank account.

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seven days

Stories which made the headlines **@kentnews.co.uk** during the past week

Cricketers involved in fracas following cup win

A POLICE investigation was launched last weekend after it appears players from Lancashire County Cricket Club found themselves embroiled in a disturbance at a bar in Ashford town centre.

They had been celebrating their thrilling victory over Kent in the Twenty20 quarter final at Canterbury last Saturday.

One of the Lancashire cricketers – reported to be Liam Livingstone – is said to have been hit by a glass during the incident, which took place at The Auction House bar in New Street.

The club confirmed the incident took place and that it would be making no further comment.

Kent Police said an investigation was under way.

Rocker May house move off as owner pulls £3m mansion off the market

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

QUEEN rocker Brian May is not about to become the latest celebrity to set up home in the county after the sale of the historic £3m Bridge Place Manor fell through.

And this week the site's owner confirmed to KoS the Grade II-listed property, near Canterbury, was now being taken off the market altogether.

The property, rebuilt in 1638, and a long-time popular night spot, has played host to some of the biggest names in music over the years – with early performances by the likes of Led Zeppelin, Eric Clapton, The Kinks and the Moody Blues.

But Mr Malkin says after putting the property on the market for £3m then dropping the price to £2.8m – and attracting the interest of the legnedary guitarist – he has now had a change of heart following a request from his son Oliver.

Currently living in the West Country, his son told his father he didn't want his birthplace sold - and said he intends to move back into the property again soon.



HISTORIC: And off the market

Peter Malkin told us: "I have changed my mind and we are doing something much bigger now.

"We are going to have a traditional jazz night and most likely doing a hotel, weddings, all that sort of thing."

The 76-year-old has seen the cream of the music industry perform at the venue – in addition to the big rock names, jazz legends such as Kenny Ball, Acker Bilk, Chris Barber, and Humphrey Lyttelton have all performed there too.

He said: "My boy Oliver has been living in Devon and he appealed to me not to sell it. He was born here and I have been here for nearly 50 years, so it is very precious to us both – it is ingrained in my blood.

"He wanted to move back to Kent to help me with the fresh plans, so I took the place off the market."

Mr Malkin also confirmed it was Brian May who was interested in buying the home and nightclub.

He said: "Yes, it was him. He was very interested."

Mr May's interest in the property was widely reported at the time. He was said to be lured in by the historic splendour of the venue.



WRONG: Chris Langham

Child abuse comic on life after prison

SHAMED actor and comedian Chris Langham has spoken for the first time about his conviction for downloading child porn.

The star of the Thick of It, and an original cast member of the Not the Nine O'Clock News team, was convicted of 15 counts of downloading indecent images, including images of child abuse, in 2007.

The Bafta-winning actor, 66, who lives in Cranbrook, told the Independent on Sunday: "I did something terribly wrong and I was punished, quite correctly, for being as stupid and arrogant as the judge described me to be.

"I have ended up doing a lot of work on myself and trying to be a better person. I am guilty and I will always be guilty. What I did was wrong and it always will be wrong."

He claimed he only accessed the images as part of researching a role he was set to play in a TV comedy and to help him understand his own past – he was abused as a child.

He added: "Consciously, I thought; I'm an artist, laws don't really apply to me. I'm doing it because I am interested in writing about this stuff and it is a very painful, personal subject for me. But I was also looking for something, I think. And I found it in court, in the prison, in the sentence."

Fresh warning over council phone scam

COUNCIL chiefs have warned residents not to fall victim to the latest scam phone calls claiming to be from the local authority.

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council says it has received reports of unsolicited phone calls from people claiming to work for the council and asking for confirmation of bank account details.

It comes just months after a similar warning was issued. In this latest scam, the caller tells residents that their property is in the wrong council tax band and that they are entitled to a refund. The scammer then asks for confirmation of bank account details so that a refund can be made.

Martin Coffin, cabinet member for finance and innovation, said: ''This is the latest in a range of scams aimed at tricking people..

''Our officers never telephone residents to ask them to confirm their bank details and we are urging residents to be extremely wary of these unscrupulous individuals who use tactics to try to get them to part with personal details or money.''

Jail for knife thug who stabbed two victims

A 20-year-old who stabbed two people, including a 79-year-old man, and caused his neighbour to fall from a first floor window, has been jailed for eight years and eight months.

Luke Punt, formerly of Boxley Road, Maidstone, carried out the attacks on September 8, 2014, Maidstone Crown Court heard.

He pleaded guilty to one count of causing grievous bodily harm with intent, one count of causing grievous bodily harm without intent, and one count of assault.

The court heard how police were called to Boxley Road at about 5.30pm to a report that a 79-year-old man had been attacked.

When officers arrived, they were alerted to the presence of a second man, who had fallen from a first floor window, and who had a stab wound and several lacerations to his back.

The victim, 54, suffered a broken back, a dislodged bone in his spinal cord, fractures to his skull and a blood clot to his brain. He was unable to speak to police until late November.

Crowds swell to visit the re-born Margate

VISITOR numbers to Margate are rocketing, according to tourism chiefs, as the revived seaside town bucks the trend of a national dip.

A survey published by YouGov earlier this month, which polled more than 5,000 individuals, said the number of people opting for a trip to the coastline had fallen by 20 per cent since 2005

Yet according to the Visitor Information Centre in Margate, numbers are shooting up this summer.

The classic seaside town has enjoyed something of a revival in recent years with both the opening of the Turner Contemporary gallery and, earlier this year, the re-birth of retro theme park Dreamland. In addition, the Old Town area has been extensively renovated.

The latest exhibition at Turner Contemporary has seen 135,822 visits, a 25 per cent increase for the same period in 2014, Margate's Visitor Information Centre says it has seen footfall increase three per cent from June to July, and The Smiths Court Hotel, on Eastern Esplanade, has seen a 77 per cent jump in weekend breaks this summer.

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Crime down on our trains but rise in sex and violence cases

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

FIGURES released this week show a further drop in the number of crimes being committed on our railways – the 11th consecutive year the numbers have fallen.

But the number of recorded sexual offences and violence across the south of England has shown a worrying rise.

The statistics were released on Wednesday by the British Transport Police (BTP).

It reveals while crime overall has dropped 7.5 per cent, sex and violence-related offences both rose by 11.3 per cent.

BTP's south sub division recorded 2,289 violent offences during the reporting period.

However, theft of properly has dropped by 15.2 per cent.

The figures cover a wide area – through Kent, Sussex, Berkishire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire and Surrey.

Superintendent Simon Taylor, who leads the policing of BTP's south sub division, said: "The increase in these offences is clearly a concern and violence has absolutely no place on the railway.

"We are committed to driving violence and intimating behaviour from the railway and there has been a renewed police focus on the quality of recording and a greater willingness from victims to come forward.

"We now put more officers on late evening and night trains to reassure passengers and deter problematic behaviour and we work with train operating companies to fully utilise the CCTV available to us on the rail network.

"Across the rail network, overall crime has reduced by 7.5 per cent in the past year. The figures show that, compared with the previous year, there were 420 fewer incidents of theft of passenger property on the network, as BTP continues to make the rail network a hostile environment for thieves."

It has been helped by the likes of Operation Magnum, a public awareness campaign to advise passengers on the most common tactics used by thieves, including pickpockets."

Supt Taylor added the BTP expected to see a rise in sexual offences after a high profile 'Report It To Stop It' campaign aimed at clamping down on offenders. He said it was designed to give victims the confidence to report such incidents.

IMPROVING: BTP has vowed to enhance its fight to rid the railway of criminals

Watch what you put in your recycling bin

COUNCIL chiefs in Ashford are urging residents to ensure only recyclable materials are placed in their recycling bins after a spate of loads were rejected.

The council says every time a waste load of recycling is rejected, it costs taxpayers in the borough an extra £50 per tonne, Cllr Clair Bell said: "Consider carefully what goes in your recycling bin because otherwise there's a chance the bin will not be emptied."

Poker success for Thanet cafe owner

THE owner of the Palm Bay cafe in Broadstairs is celebrating this week after coming second in the world's biggest poker tournament to be staged outside Las Vegas.

Katie Swift described being "so proud" after beating more than 4,000 players to win £46,300 after securing a play with £120.

Flats at sports ground

KENT County Cricket Club has won approval for a block of retirement flats overlooking the club's Canterbury headquarters.

However, the vote came about only after club chairman George Kennedy threatened the club may be forced to move from the St Lawrence if permission was not granted, given it perilous financial state.



Can you find thug who shot cat in the eye at close range?

AN INVESTIGATION is under way into how a pet cat lost its eye after being shot at close range in an attack in Dartford.

Scooby, a seven-year-old male tabby and white cat, went missing from his address on Bridges Drive, Temple Hill, on August 8. He was found in a neighbour's shed three days later, with a badly injured eye.

He was taken to the Celia Hammond Animal Trust vet in Lewisham where he had to have his left eye completely removed.

He's now back home and on the road to recovery, but will need to return for regular check-ups as the vet was unable to remove the pellet from his head.

Scooby's owner, Jeanette, who did not want her surname revealed, said: "I can't believe someone would do this to an animal, it's heartbreaking."



RSPCA inspector Anthony Pulfer said: "It is important to remember it is a legal as well as a moral offence to cause deliberate cruelty to an animal in this way.

"Unfortunately these kind of brutal attacks happen far too often - cats and wildlife seem to be most vulnerable simply because they are out there in the open."

Lorry driver dies after freak crash on the M20

A POLISH lorry driver involved in a serious smash on the M20 in the early hours of Tuesday morning died after suffering what police initially described as a 'heart attack' shortly after the incident.

The 44-year-old died at the scene of the incident.

Police were called at 2am on Tuesday following a crash involving a black Vauxhall Corsa and a lorry, between junctions seven and six, Chatham to Detling, London-bound.

Following the collision, the driver of the car – a 19-year-old man – exited his vehicle before being hit by another car, causing him to suffer a serious leg injury.

The Polish lorry driver then suffered what has now been named a "medical episode" from which he died.

The carriageway was closed while crash investigators carried out enquiries, but was reopened at 9.45am. At its peak, queues stretched back more than three miles.

Investigating officer Detective Sergeant Scott Lynch said: "We would like to hear from anyone who witnessed this incident who has not already spoken to police.

"Anyone with information is asked to call the serious collision investigation unit on 01622 798538 quoting reference 18-0075. Alternatively email sciu.td@kent.pnn.police.uk."

Motorists faced a 25-mile diversion while the road was completely shut.

Warning of diabetic risks

DIABETES UK is asking people in Kent to become volunteers to help spread the word about early diagnosis of Type 2 diabetes and the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

The charity says the volunteers will help judge the chances of people developing the illness. Email south.east@diabetes.org.uk.

'Rescue' on big wheel

FIREFIGHTERS from Canterbury and Deal carried out a training exercise on the Kent Wheel ride at the University of Kent this week - 'rescuing' someone stranded 33 metres high.

Crews manager Trevor Cox said: ''We need to be prepared for anything.''

Centre shuts after leak

ASHFORD'S Stour Centre leisure complex had to be evacuated on Wednesday after an accidental chemical leak.

Staff in the neighbouring local council building were instructed to close all windows while emergency teams made the area safe. Six people were hurt.

Parking costs slashed

GRAVESHAM Borough Council is to cut parking costs in Gravesend town centre.

It is offering two hours free parking on Saturdays in a number of its car parks and reduced midweek costs. It is designed to entice more shoppers to return to the town centre.



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1. Sandwich defences

The flood scheme will keep water at bay

2. College pulls courses

MidKent College has pulled its A levels

3. GCSE results revealed

Teens find out what they got in exams

The Essential Guide:



Manston Airport

The highs, lows and everything in between for the long-running saga.



FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY: Battle of Britain fly-past across the south east, taking off from Biggin Hill, remembered 'the Hardest Day' some 75 years ago, with the RAF battled the Luftwaffe in the skies above the county. More pictures: Turn to page20.

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Top Three Blogs



1. Exams? Could be worse

One tough lesson learned for life

2. All hail Folkestone

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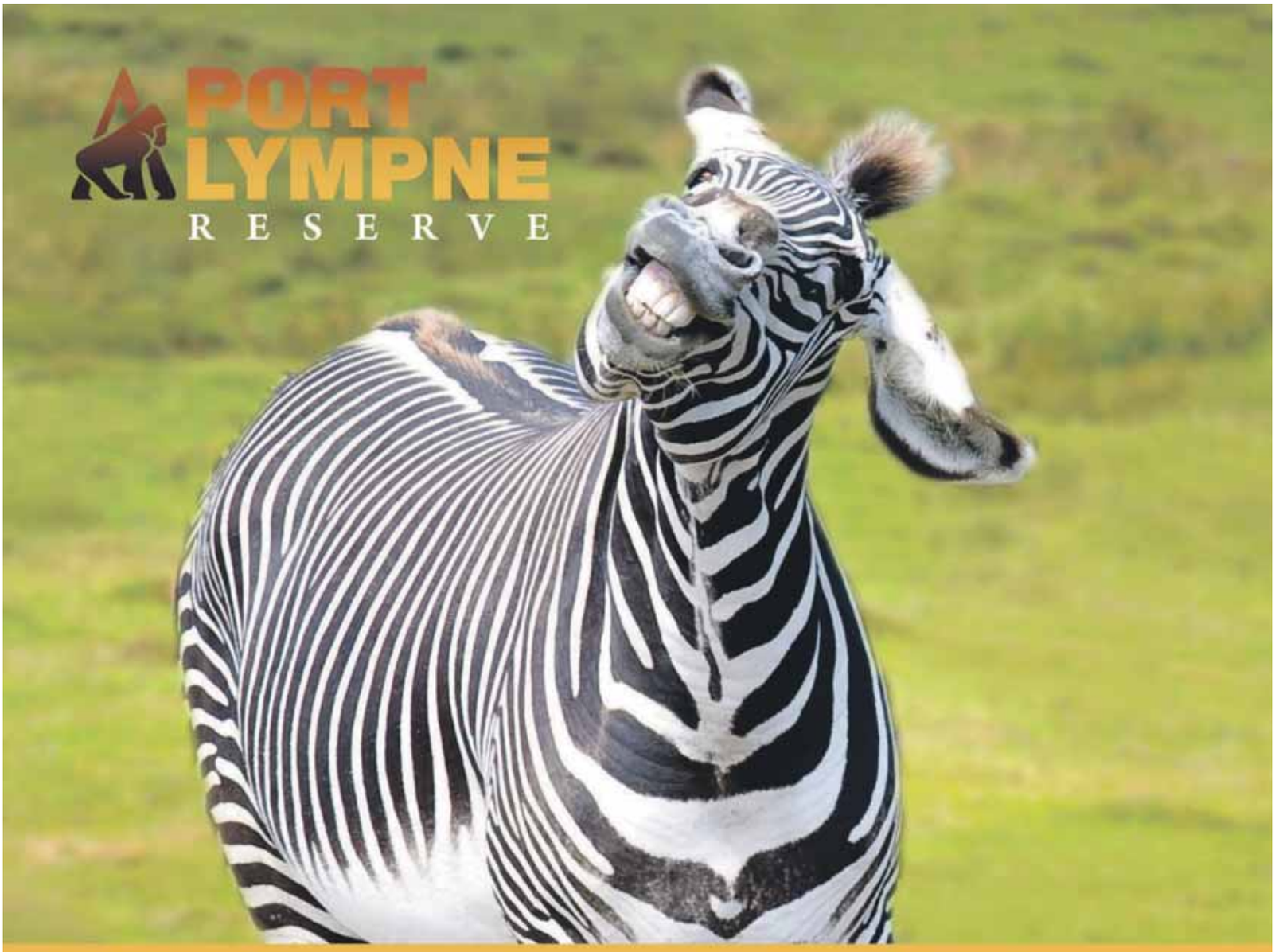
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3. Jeremy Corbyn - 53 %
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GCSE result joy, but not everyone is celebrating

A number of schools aren't happy about the marks their students have received from exam boards according to Kent County Council's education chief, Roger Gough...

Jamie Weir
Jamie.Weir@archant.co.uk

COUNTY council education chief Roger Gough said that GCSE results day hadn't gone as hoped for many schools.

While thousands of teenagers were opening their brown envelopes with trepidation on Thursday, schools across the county were getting in touch with Kent County Council to report issues with marking.

The cabinet member for education at KCC said that it had proved a bigger problem than in previous years.

He told KoS: "One issue which has arisen is the marking of papers, particularly around the iGCSE in English.

"We were getting a lot of messages from schools with concerns around the marking of exam papers, with schools telling us they would be asking for papers to be re-marked.

"The complaints from schools were extremely uniform in their nature."

One school which said it wouldn't be releasing its full results was the Oasis Academy on the Isle of Sheppey.



> **"One issue which has arisen is the marking of papers . Complaints from schools were extremely uniform in their nature"**
>
> **Roger Gough,**
> KCC's education portfolio holder

In a statement the academy said: "At the current time the academy is unable to accurately report overall figures for its GCSE results. In common with a significant number of other schools across the UK, a number of exam papers are being re-marked, especially in iGCSE English."

Cllr Gough said that the problems with marks hadn't particularly affected Kent, noting that it seemed to be a problem around the country.

Despite the issues though, the picture remained relatively 'flat' according to the county's education chief - similar to the national results, which saw 69 per cent of pupils pick up the A* to C grade.

He said: "At this time, we've had around three-quarters of the results through from schools, so although we don't have the full tally, we can estimate what the county's GCSE results look like.

"The picture seems fairly flat, which is similar to the national picture this year. Results of A* to C grades have remained stable across Kent, which is good news."

Before the results came out, some education experts had noted that there could be volatility in GCSE results, after some reforms to the way the exams were taken which came into force this year.

Mr Gough said that 'variation' had taken place, but there was none of the predicted extreme volatility.



HAPPY: Students from the Invicta Grammar School in Maidstone were happy with their results

He said: "Across the board there has been some variation in the results schools have seen.

"However, this has not been as much as last year when the Government moved the goalposts. During that results period there were a number of extreme moves which saw some schools win, and other lose.

"This year there was nowhere near the same level of volatility."

Cllr Gough spent the morning of the results with the High Weald Academy in Cranbrook.

This year the academy celebrated its best ever GCSE results with almost 60 per cent of students achieving five or more A* to C grades.

Principal at the academy, Carrie Beech, who has now spent her first full year as head at the academy, said she was delighted by the results.

She said: "We are absolutely thrilled by the achievements of the students this year. As a small, rural, non-selective school in a largely selective area, our students have demonstrated fantastic levels of progress across a broad range of abilities."

According to Cllr Gough, the county's schools all saw changes in their results. He told KoS every type, including grammar and academy schools, had seen a difference .

One selective Kent school which did particularly well was the Invicta Grammar School in Maidstone.

An impressive 100 per cent of the school's students got five A to C grades, while 62 per cent of all grades received at the school were A* and A grades.

Head teacher at the school, Julie Derrick, said she was impressed the grades were so good considering the changing situation in GCSE exams.

She said: "We are exceptionally proud of our students and staff. Their results are testament to their dedication and commitment in a time when we have huge changes in educational reform, with moving grade boundaries and substantially more rigour.

"It is a real pleasure to see so many happy young women excited at their achievements and to be returning to Invicta for the next stage of their life journey."

The results looked good in Medway too, with the unitary authority's education chief telling KoS he was pleased with what he had seen.

Medway Council's portfolio holder for education, Mike O'Brien, said: "It has been wonderful to see the fantastic achievements of our pupils today.

"The general flavour in Medway is that we've got some great results, and many of our youngsters have received the grades which they were hoping for.

"There were concerns that some of the grades may have dipped after the Government implemented changes, and I think there may be a very slight case of that happening, but I don't think its dampened the mood for anyone."

Not everyone got the grades they wanted though. For those who didn't, there are a range of options open according to Munya Badze, who works for Ashford's CXK, which offers support to youngsters.

He said: "If the results are not as expected there are always options available. It's important to think about what you want to achieve: get some advice from someone outside of your situation, like a careers advisor - there is always more than one path to success.

"Apprenticeships can be a great way to start out on your journey to success and they are available in many occupations. You may think about construction or engineering which are sectors crying out for talented and motivated young people. But there are diverse opportunities from environmental to accountancy and finance and many more.

"There are also short-term programmes which can give your maths and English a real boost while also preparing you for work.

"Whatever you do next, don't forget to use the next years wisely by getting lots of experience of work. whether paid part-time jobs, volunteering or taking part in National Citizen Service, the skills you will pick up are as important as getting qualifications."

Cllr O'Brien told KoS that Medway had an educational path for everyone, and that he was proud the council was supporting apprentices across the area.

He said: "We're actively encouraging apprenticeships in Medway at the moment, and the schemes have the full support from our council.

"This morning I actually met one student who collected his results and will be joining us at Medway Council under an apprenticeship scheme we are running. In Medway, I have always said we have an educational offer from nursery to university, and apprenticeships are just one part of that."

Critics chew over Apple's pips in the race to create self-driving car

Could computer giant's entry into sector pave the way to a whole new way of motoring; providing us with cleaner and safer cars on our roads? **Chris Murphy** speaks to both sides of the heated debate...

A MAJOR motoring organisation has poured cold water on plans leaked last weekend that electronics giant Apple is fine-tuning plans to build a self-driving electric car.

Code-named Project Titan, the firm would be just the latest big name to dabble in the world of such futuristic vehicles, following in the tyre treads of the likes of Google, Mercedes and BMW.

But Apple's apparent testing in California has created the biggest impact given the firm's enormous success so far from its iPods to iPhones, iPads and most recently the Apple Watch.

Terry Hudson, the Kent representative for the Association of British Drivers, believes the cars could spell doom – if they catch on in a big way.

He told us: "They would put the taxi and bus industries out of business.

"Go home drunk, no need to take the kids on the school run and no more driving tests – these cars would do it all. Even car parks won't be needed – just send the car home and later summon it.

"I think they will come, but it will be a long time before the true 'driverless' car is seen on the streets, where 'drivers' will not be blamed for any accidents.

"Also, whatever security claims are made, all technology can be hacked by somebody.

"Being a petrol head, I like the act of driving and the satisfaction of driving well. But for many, cars are just like the washing machine or fridge, so driverless cars might appeal to them.

"For the disabled, the blind, and old they could be really useful.

"But, personally, do I really want to be stuck behind long 'caterpillars' of vehicles, all driving at farm tractor speeds?

"Of course anybody suggesting that they might enjoy driving, is currently treated like a criminal to be hounded at every opportunity, so driverless cars, and supporting technologies, allows government to have complete control of one's travel patterns, as we further sleep-walk into a safety totalitarian society."

Not all have such a doom and gloom view however.

Christopher Snelling is the head of national and regional policy at the Freight Transport Association, headquartered in Tunbridge Wells.

He wants to see driverless vehicles as soon as possible.

He said: "It is a good idea to look at these things and develop them to be safer.

"We are already looking forward to radar controlled braking for the next generation of HGVs.

"But on driverless vehicles, each progress step needs to be properly tested, and on the assumption they pass all these tests, then we think this is a very exciting technology.

"What you can't do is rush out saying 'this technology is ready – everybody use it'.

"The testing will take time. The concept is the right way to go to increase safety and improve emissions. But it needs to be rigorously tested at every stage."

But Gary Rae, campaigns manager for Brake, the road safety charity, said: "We believe driverless technology could hold the key to ending the needless suffering caused every day by road deaths and serious injuries.

"We witness the aftermath of road casualties, and the terrible and lasting impact on families and communities, through our support services for crash victims.

"We know from research that the vast majority of these tragedies are caused by human error and risk-taking, so this technology could be a critical move towards stopping them. Driverless vehicles could transform the way we use roads, helping to ensure everyone can get around through safe, sustainable and affordable means, and making our communities more pleasant and sociable places."

The chance of seeing a swift revolution on our roads, however, with us all being driven 'hands-free' by clever computerised cars remains somewhere beyond the horizon.

Paul Watters, from motoring organisation the AA, explains: "It will be a gradual evolution with more and more driving tasks and hazard situations being dealt with by technology in the car.

"But some will be operated and actioned by the driver, like blind spot monitoring and some stepping in when a danger point is reached, and missed by autonomous braking.

"There are probably five stages to full automation and we are by no means at stage five yet but some cars are taking us closer.

"Some cars hitting the streets now are increasingly automated. In queuing traffic a car can lock onto the vehicle in front and follow it accelerating and braking as it makes its way – there is no directional control yet but that system linked to lane assist could potentially take this to another level."



QUIET: Apple hasn't commented on the claims that it could be in the process of developing a self-driving electric car to transform the motoring world

COULD KENT PILOT ROAD SURFACES WHICH CHARGE ELECTRIC VEHICLES?

ELECTRIC cars are fast developing their reputation, but charging their batteries – and the limited distance they can travel without a recharge – continues to hold back their widespread use.

There are the issues of finding a charge point that no one else is using and then having to wait for hours until the battery is full.

Now the British government is set to test special dedicated 'electric roads' - allowing electric vehicles to be recharged as they drive along it, using a magnetic system.

It has not announced just where yet - so Kent could yet prove a testing ground - but if the pilot system is a success, the technology could be rolled out to motorways and A-roads. However, it is likely to be hugely expensive.

The tech works using SMFIR, or 'shaped magnetic field in resonance'. The vehicle and road are each fitted with special coils that generate a magnetic field able to carry an electric charge that heads straight for the battery packs.

With batteries being topped up constantly, a vehicle's range would be spectacularly increased.

Christopher Snelling from the FTA said: ''This will be one of those chicken and egg situations.

''People won't buy the vehicles if the infrastructure isn't there, and the infrastructure won't be built unless people are buying the vehicles to use it. It is a great idea, but the cost will be high at first.''

Highways England said this year's trials follow the completion of the feasibility study commissioned by Highways England into 'dynamic wireless power transfer' technologies.

Transport minister Andrew Jones said: ''The potential to recharge low emission vehicles on the move offers exciting possibilities. The government is already committing £500 million over the next five years to keep Britain at the forefront of this technology, which will help boost jobs and growth in the sector. As this study shows, we continue to explore options on how to improve journeys and make low-emission vehicles accessible to families and businesses.''

The 18-month trial involves fitting vehicles with wireless technology which makes 'contact' with equipment under the road surface. Installing costs will be up to £425,000 per kilometre.

Highways England wants to also install plug-in charging points every 20 miles on the motorway network as part of the government's road investment strategy.

Not all think it is a good idea.

Terry Hudson, from the Association of British Drivers, said: ''There is so much wrong with the road network in general like unreadable signs, roundabouts like unkempt gardens, plus poor markings bad junctions, litter and vegetation.

''All this before we start talking about road improvements. I think we should get the basics sorted first, before we start doubling up research and spending money on 'halo' projects.''

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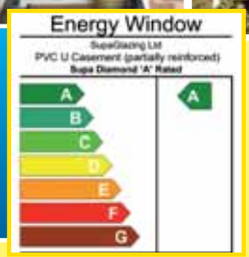


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Helicopters fly into action as rescue teams launch new era

Once handled by the Royal Navy and RAF, now search and rescue is in private hands after a deal worth £1.6bn. **Jamie Weir** speaks to the team at Lydd Airport to see how they fared one week into the historic new arrangement...

TWO years ago, major changes were made to the way our helicopter search and rescue operations were organised, ending an historic link between the service and the RAF and Royal Navy.

Initially started under the Labour administration and concluded under the Coalition, the Department of Transport penned an 11-year, £1.6 billion deal to hand the service into the hands of private firm the Bristow Group – an experienced organisation which had previously operated a number of rescue sites on behalf of the coastguard service.

Managed by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, the new era for Search and Rescue (SAR) began last Friday when the new-look service went live from Lydd Airport.

Originally due to be sited at Manston, the collapse and closure of the Thanet airfield saw the contract switched to Lydd or, to give it its full title, London Ashford Airport.

And within the first four days, it had already been involved in three missions.

Neil Robertson, chief pilot at the new base told KoS that, despite being based right next to the English Channel, the role for Bristow's SAR team would be far wider ranging.

Captain Robertson said: "Being located right next to the Channel, we're likely to get the lion's share of maritime operations. The typical things we'll do are helping evacuate ill crew members, assisting stricken ships and locating vessels which are in difficulty. But far from simply taking part in maritime operations, we'll be getting involved in search and rescue operations around the whole of the south east – land and sea.

"We will cover quite a large operational area as part of Bristow's bases which run up and down the country, so will take part in work from Great Yarmouth, to Brighton and all the way up in the direction of Humberside."

The captain told KoS that the area of operation for the crew based out of Lydd was far from set in stone.

He said: "Sometimes, even though we may be further away from an incident than another crew, it'll make sense for us to respond. If there's a strong southerly wind, then we may be quicker to a scene than another base's helicopter. We work flexibly, and are able to respond whatever happens."

The helicopter is flown by one of four crews, who take it in turns to provide a 24-hours a day, service throughout the year.

The base has two state-of-the-art Augusta Westland AW139 helicopters which it can use to fly the missions – the reason for having two; to ensure that one is always available to get straight into the air if an emergency is called in.



PLEASED: Lydd CEO Charles Buchanan

"The Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre will get the call first," explains Cpt Robinson, "whether it comes from the police, fire service, coastguard or any other emergency service. Once they have that, it's up to them to pass it over to the base they feel is best equipped to deal with it."

And when they do, the four flight crew members who take to the skies are at action stations.

"Because we have a winch on the helicopters, we're able to do quite a bit to get to people who may be stuck on land. People often get stuck on cliff tops, or in gorges, and because of that utility, we're able to help where other services might not be able to."

That's not the only thing the choppers are better at doing than much of the technology used by other agencies.

Cpt Robertson continued: "We'll do a lot of work inland, helping to evacuate people who are sick.

"The Air Ambulance typically deals with trauma incidents, where they'll pick up a casualty and take them to the best hospital. How



CONFIDENT: Captain Neil Robertson and his team are on call around the clock, covering a huge area of the south east, both at land and at sea

ever, one of the big advantages we have over the Air Ambulance is size. We're able to transport patients, with medical crews in the same helicopter. That extra capacity means we can be really useful for moving sick and injured people around."

Cpt Robertson is no certainly no newcomer to the service. The former Sea King pilot – the ageing craft which once fulfilled the role – spent 17 years in the RAF. His last posting was as a Flight Commander at RAF Wattisham's Search and Rescue unit in Suffolk.

During his time with the unit, he says they received around 160 call-outs every year.

Turn to page 16

MEET THE HIGH-TECH CHOPPERS

THE Augusta Westland AW139 helicopter which is flown from Lydd is full of the latest technology.

The helicopter itself is high-tech, with an operating range of more than 670 miles – and endurance of almost six hours.

It can carry 15 passengers, although if two stretchers are loaded the seated capacity drops to six. It's quick too, with an air speed which ranges up to a maximum of 193mph. Two winches, a medical suite and de-icing equipment all add to the dazzling array of onboard equipment.

The helicopters are also equipped with top of the range night vision goggle technology – essential when responding to night-time emergencies. Infrared and thermal imaging cameras also add to the helicopters' abilities when visibility is limited – something which helps on foggy maritime operations, or when people needing help are obscured by trees or other vegetation on the ground.

And once people have been rescued, Bristow has equipped its fleet with enhancements like power outlets for advanced medical equipment to be used, and emergency white light which enables medical procedures to be carried out.

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COULD IT RETURN TO MANSTON?

BRISTOW had originally planned to provide its search and rescue services from Manston Airport, with two helicopters to be based there.

However, when the airport closed in May, 2014, the company had to look for alternative accommodation. Lydd became the airport of choice, but it may not be for the long term.

On April 9 this year, then minister for aviation, John Hayes, announced that instead of agreeing a long term contract for Bristow to base their helicopters elsewhere, he would agree a one year deal. That left the way open for Bristow to look at using Manston again if it re-opened.

Sir Roger Gale, the MP for North Thanet said after the announcement: ''The fact that Bristow, a strong commercial organisation, are prepared to demonstrate their faith in Manston and their willingness to give us time to get the airport operational again speaks volumes.

''Search and Rescue will be coming home to the airfield where it belongs and this should send out a clear message, if nothing else does, that the Government means business.''

The opening of the Lydd base is part of a controlled roll-out of the 10 coastguard helicopter bases around the UK.

Launched in phases, the first in Humberside and Inverness went live in April. They were following by Kent, Caenarfon and bases at St Athan, Prestwick, Newquay, Lee-on-Solent, Sumburgh and Stornoway all going live by 2017.



HOME: Initially due to be hosted at Manston, the Search and Rescue team instead has signed a short-term deal with Lydd Aiport

Turn from page 15

And it seems to be so far, so good for the Kent base.

He said: "Originally the plan was to use Manston, but when that closed down, obviously we had to look for alternatives. Lydd fits the bill perfectly for the base of operations, so it's great to be here. With all of the other Bristow bases, as a service, we are able to reach any part of the UK within a 60 minute window, which means we can provide a comprehensive search and rescue cover across the country."

Although Lydd may not have been the first choice for Bristow, the area's MP, Conservative Damian Collins, is extremely pleased the company decided to base itself there.

He told KoS: "It's great news for the whole area, with high quality jobs being created on Romney Marsh, and more money being ploughed into the local economy. That's good for all business down on the Marsh, and the people who live there.

"What it also shows is that Lydd Airport isn't just a place which does charter flights, or cargo operations. It shows that Lydd is fighting to attract new business, and can do it; getting a high quality business like Bristow to base their operations out of the airport is a great achievement."

That's something which Lydd Airport's chief executive, Charles Buchanan – previously chief of Manston – is proud of as well.

He said: "Bristow is forming a network of interlinked bases around the UK. It's a real asset to the airport to have Bristow based here, as the more services we have available, the better it is. It raises the profile of Lydd, and shows that we're a major player and are able to handle different operations."

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HIGHLIGHT: The Red Arrows thrilled spectators while there were a host of air craft from First World War replicas to the Battle of Britain fighters - plus the chance to see the Vulcan bomber too

More than 70,000 flock to watch spectacular seaside air displays

Organisers speak of their delight after show, featuring the likes of the Red Arrows, proves a huge hit

ORGANISERS behind last weekend's Herne Bay Airshow say they "could not have been happier" at the way the event played out as more than 70,000 people turned out to watch the display along the north Kent coast.

After two 'warm-up' air displays in the past couples of years, the event was staged by a plucky team of volunteers who pulled in a stellar line-up to woo the crowds.

Organised by the BayPromo Team, tens of thousands of people flocked to the town to see the Red Arrows and the amazing Vulcan bomber before it is mothballed.

In addition, ten air craft took part in a First World War 'dogfight' as a squadron of replicas with the Great War Display Team 'battled' in the skies.

One of the organisers, Gerald McCarthy told us: "We could not have been happier with the way it all went.

"In the past, we have put on a couple of small air displays with some light aircraft flying past, but nothing like this.

"It was a big risk at first doing something as grand as this."

The free Amy Johnson Memorial Air Show saw around 70,000 arrive on the seafront last weekend.

Mr McCarthy said: "It was an astonishing day – history was definitely made in terms of visitor numbers.

"We had something like 36 aircraft that turned up – it was an Eastbourne-style event at a relatively small, sleepy seaside town. And it went absolutely fantastically.

"It created a real buzz and attracted people from all over. Hopefully it will be bigger next year, and perhaps even be a turning point for the town to show it can put on a regional event. The town was throbbing."

Rob Davies, media officer at Canterbury City Council which covers Herne Bay, said: "I was there in a private capacity, and it was amazing to see so many people getting off the train to see the show."

The BayPromo Team has also previously organised and financed the Sci-fi By The Sea event in 2013 when 5,000 people attended. The following year, that went up to 8,000 the following year plus former Dr Whos Colin Baker and Paul McGann attended, along with Chris Barrie from Red Dwarf and Darth Vadar himself, David Prowse.

The power of airshows seems to continue to generate enormous crowds, but many have failed to take off in recent years.

The Biggin Hill International Airshow was scaled down several years ago, while a free event in Folkestone had to be shelved after struggling to secure sponsorship.





CROWDS: All pictures of the show courtesy of JULIE BLACKMER



DOGFIGHT: Replicas on craft used during the First World War



PACKED: Crowds lined the seafront to watch the free displays

Emotions high remembering the 'Hardest Day' of dogfights

Thousands saw Spitfires and Hurricanes fly again to mark the 75th anniversary

By Sarah Linney
sarah.linney@archant.co.uk



HIGH: Planes mark a brutal day in the Battle of Britain which took place during the Second World War



TOGETHER: Hurricanes and Spitfires took off from Biggin Hill and flew across the south

THE sacrifice made by those who fought for our freedom in the Second World War was remembered at Biggin Hill airport yesterday with the re-enactment of the Hardest Day.

The airport marked the 75th anniversary of the most intense day of fighting in the Battle of Britain with a huge display of 24 Hurricanes and Spitfires, which flew all over Kent and the south east as far as the Isle of Wight.

Among the 3,000 who turned up to watch the planes take off were a number of veterans of the conflict who took part in the dogfights over the skies of the county.

August 18, 1940, marked a turning point in the Battle of Britain. The German high command was preparing to invade Britain and believed heavy raids on the south east's major airfields – including Biggin Hill – would terminally wound an already weakened RAF.

Fortunately, they had got their facts wrong. The RAF was much stronger than the Germans believed and routed the Luftwaffe – and less than a month later the invasion plans had been abandoned.

"We wanted to honour the courageous pilots, engineers, armourers, operations staff and ground crews who faced constant attack from the Nazi Luftwaffe on that day and during that period," the airport's head of communications, Simon Ames, explained.

The Hurricanes and Spitfires flew in various formations from 12.45pm over Surrey, West Sussex, Hampshire and Kent.

There was a special salute over the Battle of Britain Memorial at Capel-Le-Ferne. There was also a flight line walk where people could see the aircraft and meet the pilots.

Sally O'Connor, who owns the Spitfire Café at the airport, said: "It was a fantastic day."

■ All of our pictures are courtesy of Mike Rivett.

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SPECIAL BATTLE OF BRITAIN SERVICES NEXT MONTH

TO commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain the Tunbridge Wells Branch of the Royal Air will be holding two events.

On Sunday, September 13, there will be a commemorative service at Christ Church, High Street, Tunbridge Wells starting at 10.30am.

In attendance there will the mayors of Tunbridge Wells, Southborough and the deputy mayor of Tonbridge together with borough councillors, MP Greg Clark and members of ex-serving associations and the Air Training Corps.

On Tuesday, September 15 - Battle of Britain Day - there will be a wreath laying ceremony at the Dowding Memorial in the Calverley Grounds, starting at 10.45am.

The wreath will be laid by Peter Blackwell, deputy lieutenant of Kent.



VETERANS: Were among the thousands to watch the planes take-off

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FTA warning: M20 loos 'could kill users'

Chris Murphy reports on how temporary toilets left on the hard shoulder for Operation Stack are an accident waiting to happen



A FREIGHT organisation has issued a warning that motorists stopping to use Portaloos, left on the side of the M20 motorway in the event of Operation Stack returning, risk their lives by using them.

The temporary toilets were installed between junctions eight for Leeds Castle at Maidstone and junction nine at Ashford – the stretch which is first to be turned into a temporary lorry park if there are any problems at the cross-Channel terminals.

But although Stack has been absent now for several weeks, the loos have remained just in case – as a vital facility for stranded lorry drivers.

However, families heading to the Channel ports have assumed they are there for motorists and many are taking a risk by using them.

And that, says the Freight Transport Association, based in Tunbridge Wells, could be a case of dicing with death.

A spokesman for the organisation said: "You can only stop on the hard shoulder in an emergency and going to the loo is not an emergency, although it might feel like it.

"I am not surprised people are using them because people do sometimes stop on the hard to spend a penny in the bushes.

"If there are Portaloos there, it may seem like a bit of an invitation for some – a bit of a temptation.

"But they are only there for a very different reason and will be there all summer.

"They are placed on the grass and not on the road surface. But there are no barriers so using them is incredibly dangerous.

"There is nothing to protect people from passing vehicles at high speed.

"If something were to hit a loo while someone was inside, can you just imagine."

So why can't they just be removed?

The FTA explained: "They are designed to be used when the motorway is closed.

"There is no point taking them away because probably the moment they are gone, we will have Operation Stack again. There are a lot of them – we think they are more than one every half a mile.

"But it is never that far to go on the M20 for the next services.

"Perhaps putting up signs would help, but by the time they have read the signs, they have stopped on the hard shoulder already."

We contacted the police who did not wish to comment and passed our inquiry to Kent County Council (KCC), who said the same thing and passed us to Highways England – the organisation formerly known as the Highways Agency.

A KCC spokesman said: "We arrange for them to be delivered down there but from then on, the responsibility for them is taken over by Highways England."

Highways England said: "The temporary mobile toilets on the M20 have been left in place in case Operation Stack is required again.

"We would like to remind drivers that stopping on the hard shoulder is illegal, unless it is for a breakdown or genuine emergency, and that the mobile toilets are not in use for short stops. Toilets are available at the service areas at junction 8 and 11."

Nick Lloyd, road safety manager for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, said: "About one-in-ten deaths on a motorway happen while a vehicle is stopped on the hard shoulder.

"This is an extremely dangerous place and motorists should only consider stopping here when they have a mechanical problem that prevents them safely reaching the nearest service station. Stopping to use Portaloos left on the M20 when the motorway is not closed for Operation Stack is illegal and drivers and passengers risk losing their life. If drivers need to use the toilet, stop at the nearest service station."

And Mike Bristow at the national road safety campaign group, Brake, told us: "The hard shoulder is there for use in emergencies, so it's important that it's kept clear, especially to allow a clear run for emergency vehicles.

"Stopping for a convenience break on the hard shoulder could put your life and the lives of others at risk, so save it for a service station. We hope



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STACK: Toilets have been left around every half a mile along the stretch of the motorway between junctions 8 and 9

that the temptation of the portaloos is removed as soon as possible by the relevant authorities."

An almost ceaseless combination of French ferry staff industrial action and migrants storming the ports created a situation where Stack was in place on the M20 for 28 days since June 23.

Fortunately, the situation has eased since then, and Stack has been absent from our roads for several weeks. Improved security around the Channel Tunnel entrance in Conquelles, on the French side, has seen the number of migrants looking to gain entry to the UK dip dramatically in recent weeks – allowing services to continue throughout the night and not allow freight traffic to build up.

However, Stack came at a high price, with the extra work for police and other authorities running into millions. Plus haulage companies have complained about their costs and other businesses in Kent are upset with large income losses.

The government also recently announced Dover-bound lorries will be diverted to the disused Manston airport should more trouble arise in France. But Eurotunnel trucks will still use Stack.

In addition, Manston will only be used after several phases of Stack have been implemented, with the stretch between Maidstone and Westenhanger closing first before any additional capacity is sought in Thanet.



AVOID: Temporary toilets were set up for use only by lorry drivers

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How Margate's parakeets are here to stay



They started life as pets released into the wild and now the latest figures, as **Chris Murphy** reports, reveal their numbers are flying high...

MARGATE has done a lot recently to appeal to visitors – from globally respected art galleries to the re-birth of the thrills and spills of Dreamland.

But perhaps missed by many is its rather remarkable colony of tropical birds which fly free and are instantly recognisable courtesy of their brightly coloured plumage.

A major four-year study on the impact of the Margate parakeet on native wildlife has been going for a year now, examining just what influence it has had on the local eco-system.

The birds, which are bright green in colour, are usually seen in far hotter climates, but over the decades the colony at the coastal town has managed to adapt and expand.

No one is really sure how they started to appear – although firmly at the top of the pile of various hypothesis is that they originated from escaped or released pets in the 1970s.

It's not particularly rare – other escapes have seen exotic birds fly free in the UK since the 1850s, but they are a familiar sight and noise in and around the popular seaside town.

Bird charity the RSPB said the 'alien' creatures are noisy and tend to force out other birds from nesting areas.

A spokesman explained: "They are surviving and, in the case of the ring necked parakeet, thriving in our climate. They are a gregarious species, in that they love to flock together and like living around people.

"So the public perception of these parakeets is that they are far more common than they appear and that, en-masse, they are a nuisance due to noise and droppings."

They are a familiar sight throughout Thanet and its towns and their distinctive cawing noise is a regular feature of Ramsgate's King George VI Park.

The RSPB spokesman added: "The majority of the UK's ring-necked parakeets have DNA linking them with Indian cousins, so this strengthens the theory of escaped pets naturalising and breeding as the source.

"They would have been originally brought to the UK by sailors and traders who would have sold them as exotic species for private menageries, zoos or scientific study at the height of the British Empire."

Since then, the birds have been popular pets – the widely accepted source of this particular flock.

He added: "The secrets of their success lie in their adaptability and longevity. They have a varied diet of nuts, fruits and seeds. There is some evidence that parakeets have a high tolerance level for toxic substances which could subdue populations of other species. They can live for up to 30 years.

"They had no natural predators, but the incidents of predation by sparrow hawks and peregrine falcons is increasing.

"There are numerous anecdotal reports of crop damage, but little of this has been officially substantiated or collated, so assessing their impact is difficult."

The ring-tailed parakeet living in and around Margate are far from the only breed now wild.

The RSPB spokesman added: "Monk parakeets started to increase in numbers and subsequently in the public's awareness in 1987.

Continues on Page 26





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FLOCKS: Ring necked parakeet are also known as rose-ringed parakeets

Continues from Page 25

Government action was swift and early indications from the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) suggest control measures are working.

"Alexandrine parakeet appeared on registers in 1997 onwards, blue-crowned parakeets in 2001 and most recently rosy-faced lovebirds. All are being monitored."

The research project is being run by the University of Kent at Canterbury.

Called Parrotnet, it is being spearheaded by the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (Dice) by researchers from Kent, Imperial College in London, plus others from Britain and Europe.

Parrotnet chairman Dr Jim Groombridge says the birds are in the top 100 for worst invasive species in Europe.

He said: "Parrotnet aims to better understand why species such as parrots are highly successful invaders.

"It will also explore ways to monitor and predict the various impacts, including the economic and ecological, of these species across Europe, and the means to mitigate them."

The team points out that in Belgium, parakeet's dominant characteristics have been linked to declines in other bird populations like nuthatches.

Ring necked parakeet are also known as rose-ringed parakeets, which the RSPB explains as "Two names, one species: Psittacula krameri."

Dr Debbie Bartlett is the programme leader for the environmental conservation centre for landscape ecology at the Medway campus of the University of Greenwich

She told us: "They do cause problems competing with native birds for nest sites and are spreading across London and the south east.

"In Europe they are included as one of 15 terrestrial vertebrates on the Daisie list, which stands for Delivering Alien Invasive Species Inventories Europe.

"The continued growth and spread of the rose-ringed parakeet population in England, has the potential to impose significant economic, ecological and social impacts."

WHAT IS A RING-NECKED PARAKEET?

ORIGINALLY from Africa and southeastern Asia, the ring-necked parakeet has become the UK's only naturalised parrot.

It is a distinctive looking creature - large, long-tailed and green with a red beak and a pink and black ring around its face and neck; hence its name.

Juveniles tend to be yellower in colour.

The parakeets tend to live in flocks - often many hundreds gathering at a roost site.

As a consequence, they can be noisy, with their distinctive cawing noise clearly noticeable against the backdrop of more native species.

They fly steady and direct, with pointed wings.

They have been kept as caged birds for decades, and it is by them escaping or being released, that they are thought to have thrived.

There are now believed to be nearly 10,000 breeding pairs around the UK.

While Margate's flock is believed to count in the hundreds or thousands, it pales in comparison with the largest UK population. In Esher, Surrey, there are believed to be around some 7,000 birds.



However, any hopes of their numbers being controlled now seem rather unlikely.

While they were added, by the government, to the list of species that can be legally killed without special permission in January, 2010, if evidence of damage is being caused – to crops for example – the numbers are now thought to be so strong in the UK that any attempt to kill or capture them would be both an enormous task and near impossible.



CAMARADERIE: The Hartley Morris Men perform in a number of pubs around north west Kent, mixing dance with folk music, in what is one of the county's most popular sights

Helping to keep one of the great English dancing traditions alive

Molly Kersey finds out that it's not all just about waving a handkerchief in the air for our Morris Men

FOR hundreds of years, Morris dancing has managed to maintain its place in Kent, a firm fixture at a number of festivals and events throughout the county.

But in the 21st century, just what is it about this peculiar form of folk dancing which manages to still capture our imagination?

After all, the sight of men and women wearing white with bells attached to their knees and waving handkerchiefs, or hitting sticks together in tune to an accordion, is a somewhat eccentric one.

Yet few self-respecting festivals and events in the county can resist hiring a troupe to entertain the crowds and provide some life and atmosphere.

Hartley Morris Men, who meet in Wrotham, are gearing up for a packed schedule of events.

They were formed back in 1952 and have performed across Kent over the years.

Tim Peters, who dances with the side, explained: "Our side was formed before the Second World War and was then known as the Stansted Morris Men, but it disappeared as people went off to war.

"Some of the men got together again with others after the war in 1952, the year the Queen ascended to the throne, taking the side's colours of red, white and blue as a result.

"When they reformed they started in the village of Hartley but have since moved, depending on where there was a practice hall available. We have been in Wrotham for nearly 40 years."

So just where do they take their inspirations? Mr Peters told KoS: "Our dancing comes from the Cotswold style of Morris dancing. Some sides dance just with males, some with just females while others are mixed. We are a mixed group with male dancers, and male and female musicians."





PERFORMANCE: Harking back centuries, performances for one troupe have even included a cross-Channel boat

He added: "Individual villages in the Cotswolds developed their own dances and style of dancing, and chose tunes to suit their dances. We usually use the traditional tunes for the dances, played on melodeon, concertina or accordion."

The popularity of Morris dancing has tended to fluctuate over the years, with membership booming during the folk revival years of the 1960s and 70s.

Adds Mr Peters: "Rather less joined in the 1980s and 1990s because folk was seen as being less 'cool' then. In the last, 15 years folk music and dancing has been appreciated much more, and people seem to have much more respect for English traditions and much more interest in them."

The side meet regularly and will be performing at a number of different venues in the coming months.

"We practice on Thursday from September through to April and dance on Thursday evenings in various pubs around north west Kent, usually two pubs on a Thursday evening, from April back through to September again," he said.

"Occasionally, we organise special events – we have just had one in Tonbridge where we invited about 150 other dancers from all over England to join us."

Mr Peters said the age of people wanting to get involved varied.

"At a pub where we danced last week, there was a reasonably typical audience, with interest from people in their twenties through to people in their sixties," he said.

"One man was possibly even in his seventies and said he regretted that he couldn't join us because he thought his knees were past it."

And he said that there were many benefits to people who were looking to join in the fun.

"Like most clubs or societies, there is a sense of camaraderie but we have even more – we have the delights of keeping alive one of the few great English traditions and going around some of the nicest pubs in north west Kent to perform," he said.

"I think it's the perfect form of exercise. It's great fun, it's great company and we have a wonderful time."

The side has danced at a number of exciting venues over the years.

"At the Queen's Jubilee we were asked to represent England in the Commonwealth Festival of Music. We danced in Westminster Hall, an incredible building with an amazing atmosphere," explained Mr Peters.

"On another occasion, we were asked to dance on a cross-Channel ferry from Dover to France and back again. You know how boring it can be on a ferry crossing, but we had the most incredible audience and were able to get the children involved with the dancing which was great fun."

Historically, Morris dancing saw a revival thanks to Cecil Sharp, an inspirational figure for the past-time, as Mr Peters explains: "Morris dancing was tending to die out all around the country towards the end of the 19th century because of the shift of young people from villages to towns and cities.

"Fortunately, a man called Cecil Sharp, who made a living from collecting and publishing folk songs, happened upon a group of dancers in the village of Headington – in Oxford – and was fascinated.

"He started collecting information from what were quite often older people in the villages who remembered the dancing that either they used to do or used to see others do in the village.

"He and the other collectors saved a considerable number of dances and dancing styles from being lost, and started a revival.

"There is even some evidence that there were people Morris dancing in Kent through to possibly around the middle of the 19th century and we would very much like to learn more about the dances, the dancers and where they danced.

"If anyone reading this has any information, we would be very grateful if they could email it to Bagman@HartleyMorrisMen.org.uk"

The Hartley Morris Men will be having a taster evening on September 17 at St George's Hall in High Street, Wrotham, from 8.30pm.

"It's a great opportunity for people to bring along as many left feet as they can find and have a go at Morris Dancing," said Mr Peters.

■ **For more information about the side, you can visit: www.hartleymorrismen.btck.co.uk.**


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CHALLENGE: Captain Jon Armstrong (below) and Corporal Arjun Limbu (inset on right) both serve in the 2nd Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles based in Folkestone, and took more than a year planning the Artic Circle expedition

Soldiers take of Artic Circle

After some 1,500 gruelling miles, Jon returned after a 91-day expedition to

TWO soldiers returned this week from a gruelling endurance challenge which took them on an epic 100-day, 1,500-mile trek in the Arctic Circle.

Captain Jon Armstrong and Corporal Arjun Limbu both serve in the 2nd Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles based in Folkestone, and took more than a year planning the trip.

Travelling on foot and by sea, they braved the extreme temperatures – plunging to minus 20 degrees Celsius – polar bears, ice floes, fast-moving icebergs and deep, deadly crevasses.

And the drama didn't end there. While on the expedition, one of them heard their family had been caught up in the devastating earthquakes in Nepal – home of the Gurkhas – and they suffered snow blindness and illness.

The trip took them to Ellesmere Island, off the northern Canadian coast.

The challenge required the duo to trek, kayak and ski across 1,000 miles of treacherous terrain.

> **"We faced some brutal conditions and there were a few points at which we thought we were going to be in serious trouble..."**
>
> **Captain Jon Armstrong,** 2nd Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles

While they managed the feat in only 91 days, a section of the Nares Straight along the east coast of the island remained impassable due to packed ice along the coastline – highly unusual for this time of year.

This meant the pair could not break the world record for a complete circumnavigation, but nevertheless they completed more than 1,000 miles of trekking and kayaking.

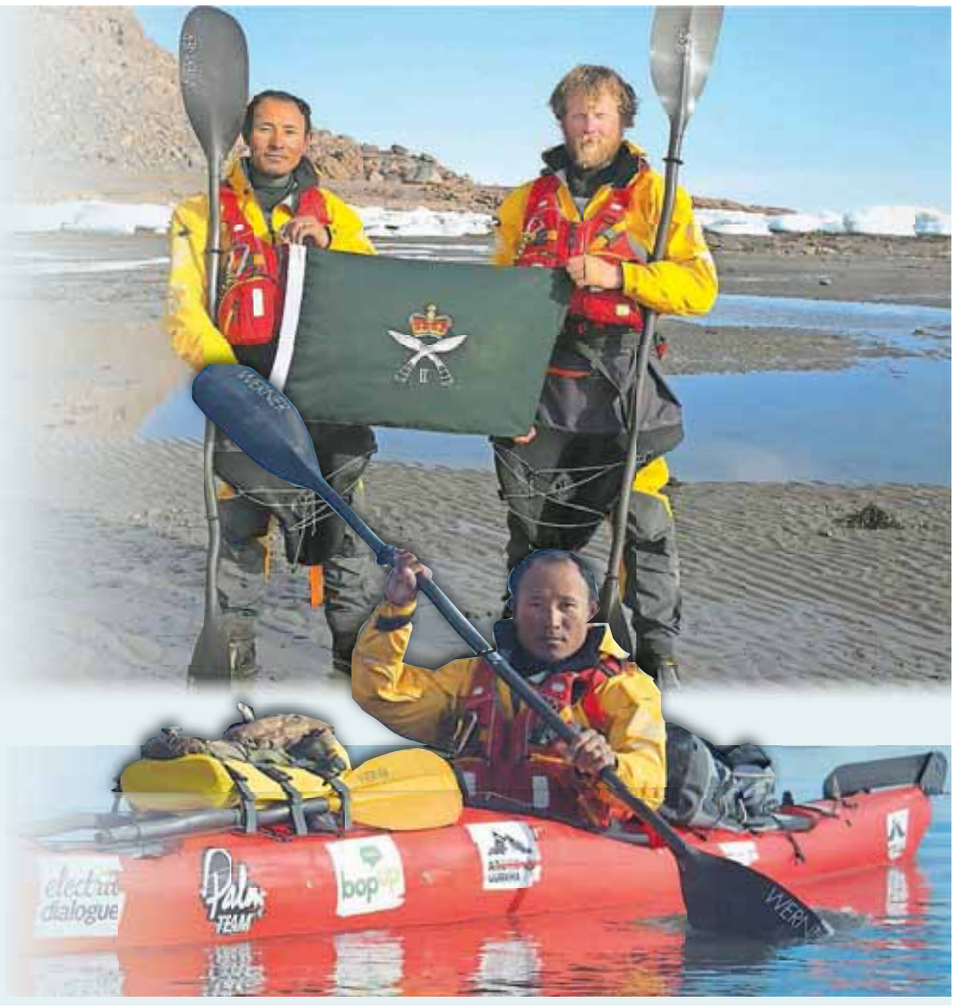
It was so gruelling the pair were burning 300 calories an hour – forcing them to consume 6,000 calories every day.

As part of the celebrations in 2015 to mark 200 years of Gurkha service



on challenge and survive

Armstrong and Arjun Limbu have mark 200 years of Gurkha service



to the Crown, Capt Armstrong and Cpl Limbu, decided to undertake this epic journey and spent the next 12 months finding time to train in Scotland and Norway all the while carrying out their "day jobs" as serving members of the British Army, who are at the same time preparing for a tour in Afghanistan in 2016.

They have also managed to raise more than £10,000 for clean drinking water and sanitation projects in Nepal.

The pair set off prior to the Nepal earthquakes and were informed of the damage done to Cpl Limbu's homeland while on the expedition.

Thankfully, his family were not badly affected and he has managed to keep in touch with them by satellite phone.

Captain Armstrong, who has also been planning his wedding which will take place this autumn, says: "We faced some brutal conditions and there were a few points at which we thought we were going to be in serious trouble and maybe even need rescue.

"Snow blindness, debilitating illness and exhaustion all had an impact but we trained hard for what we faced and pushed through some pretty harsh moments. We are incredibly glad to be back home now, reflecting on the lessons learnt from this life-changing mission and looking forward to catching up with our friends, family and colleagues over the coming weeks."

Corporal Limbu said: "My forebears have fought in countless wars including both world wars and the Falklands, and I myself have been in Afghanistan and Iraq, so I didn't think the Arctic would be too much of a problem.

"We thought that we could prepare for it and face it with determination, but sometimes the conditions are such that no preparation will help.

"Thankfully we have succeeded in beating one of the most inhospitable places and we can use that achievement to highlight the 200th anniversary of Gurkhas serving in the British Army, and the work the Gurkha Welfare Trust is doing to help my country and its people, especially after the events of the earthquakes."

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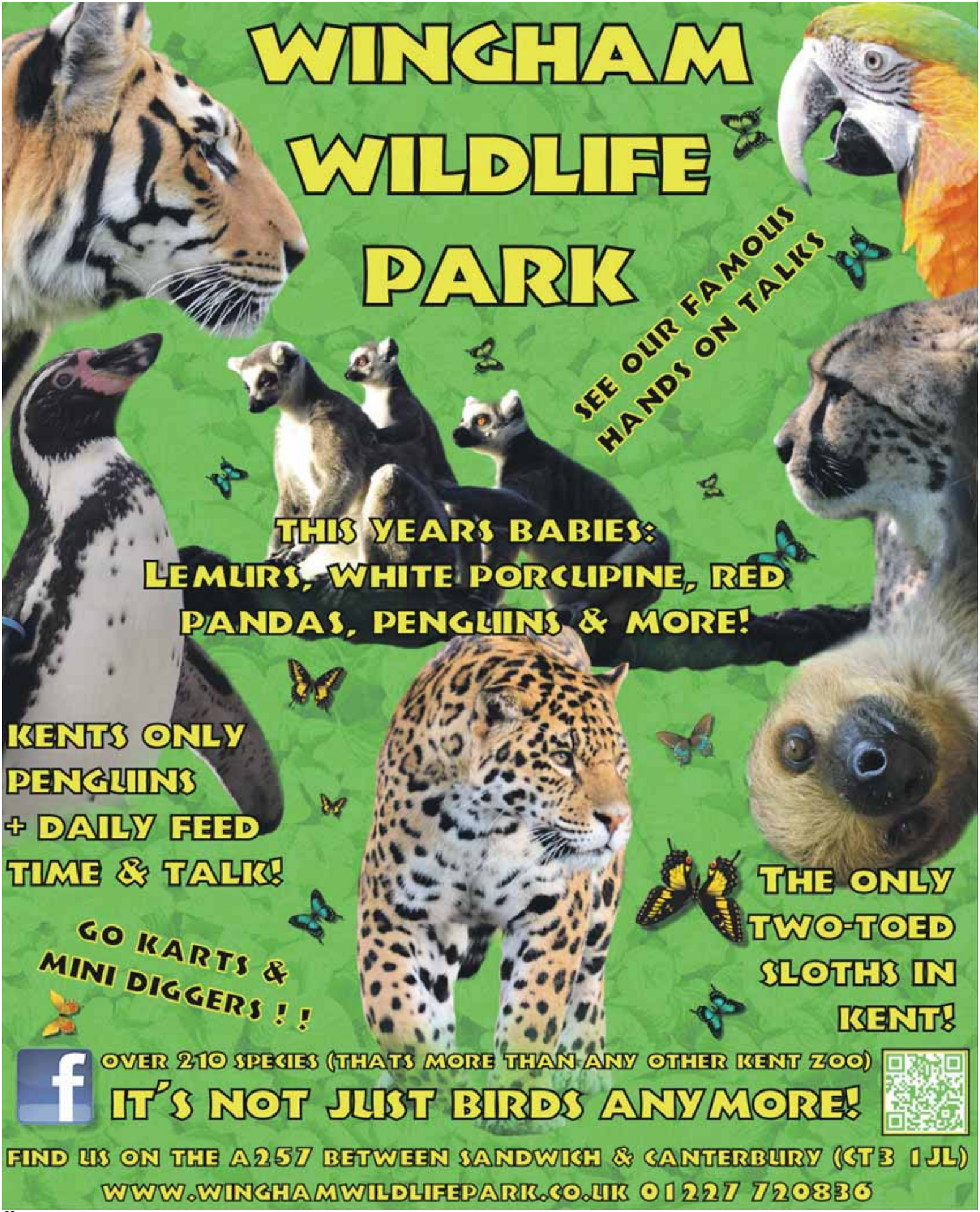


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CROWDS: Event at the Winter Gardens concludes today (Sunday)

Game on: Play presses all the right buttons

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

MARGATE transforms into video game heaven this weekend as the first outing of Play settles in for three days of arcade, indie and retro fun.

The new event, which follows in the footsteps of the popular and well-established Gaming Expo East Kent (Geek) show, started at the Winter Gardens on Friday and concludes tonight.

It features gaming machines from the past and present in all shapes and sizes.

From classic arcade and pinball machines to PCs and game consoles through the generations, thousands are set to descend on the seaside town to join in the fun.

The retro section alone will boast more than 100 consoles, offering everything from Pong - the original gaming classic – all the way through to the more modern PlayStation 3 machine.

Andy Brown is director of organiser Replay Events Ltd, which already runs a major show at Manchester.

He told us: "We hope this will be an annual event. We have a capacity of 1,200 per day, and hope to fill the hall.

"We were approached by the venue asking us to run this event, and I checked with the people at Geek to make sure they were okay with it, and they are.

"Ours will be a different type of event, with the emphasis on people being able to play a lot of the old retro games.

"We have worked with Geek for the first few years, and are certainly not trying to take away anything from what they did. The two events can feed each other, and if Margate suddenly becomes a hotspot for gaming events then that would be great.

"I do think the two events will complement each other and can only be good for Margate."

Organisers have also confirmed a dedicated Xbox One zone in addition to the blast from the past.

A spokesman explained: "We are celebrating some of our favourite franchises and genres in the retro zone as well as bringing our popular Replay Ages, Replay Lounge and Replay Ring features to the show.

"The retro zone will have over 100 systems all playable from Pong to Playstation 3 and everything in between.

"Replay Ages is a timeslice of the past 40 years of games, which will be featuring 40 of the most recognisable consoles and computers, each running a selection of the best games for each system. So whether you're Sinclair, Commodore, Nintendo, Sega, Sony or even a Xbox fan, there will be something for everyone.

"And, of course, we'll have a selection of games for each system too, so if you can't choose Manic Miner over Decathlon or Gran Turismo over Crash Bandicoot don't worry our event staff will be on hand to help you find your favourite game."

Replay Celebrations will include franchises such as Mario, Sonic, Star Wars, Street Fighter and Tomb Raider.

The spokesman added: "The Replay Lounges are clusters of four player, single-screen games where all players sit next to each other nudging and laughing their way through a lap of Mario Kart, a round of Goldeneye or a battle on Super Smash Brothers.

"Finally, the Replay Ring is a 16-screen gaming carousel hosting both casual and competitive head-to-head LAN gaming on some of the best first person shooters and driving games of recent times. Drop in and out of a round of Halo, or race your mates across the streets of Los Angeles in Blur."

Those who prefer tabletop games will also be accomodated, with a host of card games in play and classic RPGs such as Dungeons and Dragons, Puppetland and Into the Odd.

■ **Play Margate runs from 10am to 6pm. Tickets cost £12.50 for adults and £7.50 for children.**

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Where there's muck there's cash as rural sector ploughs forward

Fresh call for government assistance to help milk full potential from our lush and fertile countryside

By Jamie Weir
jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

WHEN thinking of the county's countryside, piles of cash don't usually figure high in most people's minds.

But the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) – which campaigns on behalf of landowners, farmers and rural businesses – says that although the rural economy is rarely spoken about, it actually contributes a whopping £8.2 billion worth of goods and services to Kent, providing jobs for more than 230,000 people.

The group is now calling on MPs from across the county to further support the rural sector, and help it to flourish.

The CLA's south east regional director, Robin Edwards, says that although the countryside makes a big contribution, it's rare that it gets the same attention as urban areas.

He told KoS: "There are billions of pounds of output from the countryside, and although most people instantly think 'agriculture' when you mention rural businesses, it is not the case.

"Farming and agriculture underpin much of the sector's value, but that isn't the only contributor by any measure. In fact, there are a diverse range of businesses based out in the countryside, with entrepreneurs taking office space as old agricultural buildings are redeveloped, architects working on fresh designs and food and drinks producers looking to base themselves close to suppliers."

One of the county's MPs to knows the value of the rural sector is Damian Green.

His Ashford constituency is predominantly rural, with a large number of small villages which stretch across it. He says both he and the government are committed to helping the county's farmers to flourish.

Mr Green said: "The rural sector is really very important to the county, and indeed the country's economy in a couple of key ways.

"It's important both in creating jobs, but also in creating and retaining vibrancy in and around villages.



GROWTH: But agriculture is not the only driver of growth in the rural sector, experts are quick to point out

"The rural sector isn't simply about farmers; it encompasses much more than that. It is about ensuring that villages don't simply become dormitory villages which are only inhabited at the weekends."

This isn't the first time the county's rural economy has had a value placed on it. Lobby group Rural PLC has, in the past, looked to value the contribution of Kent's countryside economy – finding rural areas were far more than simply dormitory areas. In fact, the group found that if Kent's rural sector was a company listed on the London Stock Exchange, it would be worth more than leading high street retailer Marks and Spencer.

Farming and environment director

Continues on Page 35



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Continues on From Page 34

for Rural Plc, Charles Tassell, told KoS that it was a key piece of the county's economic jigsaw.

He said: "In Kent, the rural sector plays a vital role in local employment; 36 per cent of businesses in Kent are based in rural areas, and they all help to support local services like schools, shops, public transport, housing and vital new requirements such as rural broadband.

"Traditional farming is still a big employer in rural areas, alongside farm diversification, both of which provide jobs for people near to where they live, cutting down on commuting distances and helping put money back into local communities."

Mr Green said that this was one of the fundamental benefits of rural business.

He told KoS: "The life that the rural sector brings to areas is immensely important. It keeps services open and running, and it also provides people with jobs that don't require them to commute. Small companies are able to benefit from lower costs as they start out if they base themselves in more rural areas, which in turn provide more jobs, and a more diverse skills base in these places."

But for this sector to provide the maximum number of jobs, the CLA says that one thing which is key for the rural economy to remain healthy is good broadband connections.

Mr Edwards says that a project to bring superfast broadband connectivity to 95 per cent of the county by 2017 isn't going far enough.

He told KoS: "Rural broadband is a big problem for businesses, and one which needs to be resolved for the county's rural sector to keep it moving in the right direction.

"Five per cent of premises still don't know what kind of broadband they'll get when these projects end in 2017, and the chances are the five per cent which get missed out will be in rural areas.

"Obviously it's more difficult for internet providers to get those places connectivity, but it really is fundamental for the sector's growth that rural business is well provided for."

Another sticking point for Mr Edwards is the planning system. He told KoS that it will become increasingly important for planners to understand business needs in the future.

He said: "There needs to be an acceptance among council planning departments that the rural sector may need to build in order to grow, and this, obviously, would take place in the countryside. These rural businesses need to make money, and sometimes will need to diversify by building offices, or new premises or even homes at times.

"That shouldn't be stifled, as it's key to ensuring that the rural economy prospers, and the county's economic base is diverse in the future. To hold back development, which is sometimes necessary for a business to survive, will slowly kill off the rural sector."

The government, says Mr Green, is not just listening to the county's rural voice, but is acting as well.

He told KoS that changes to the planning system were already helping businesses in the countryside to build, with less red tape.

He said: "The government has already looked at the planning system, and has introduced changes which help to streamline planning, and favour sympathetic development which will help businesses based in rural areas.

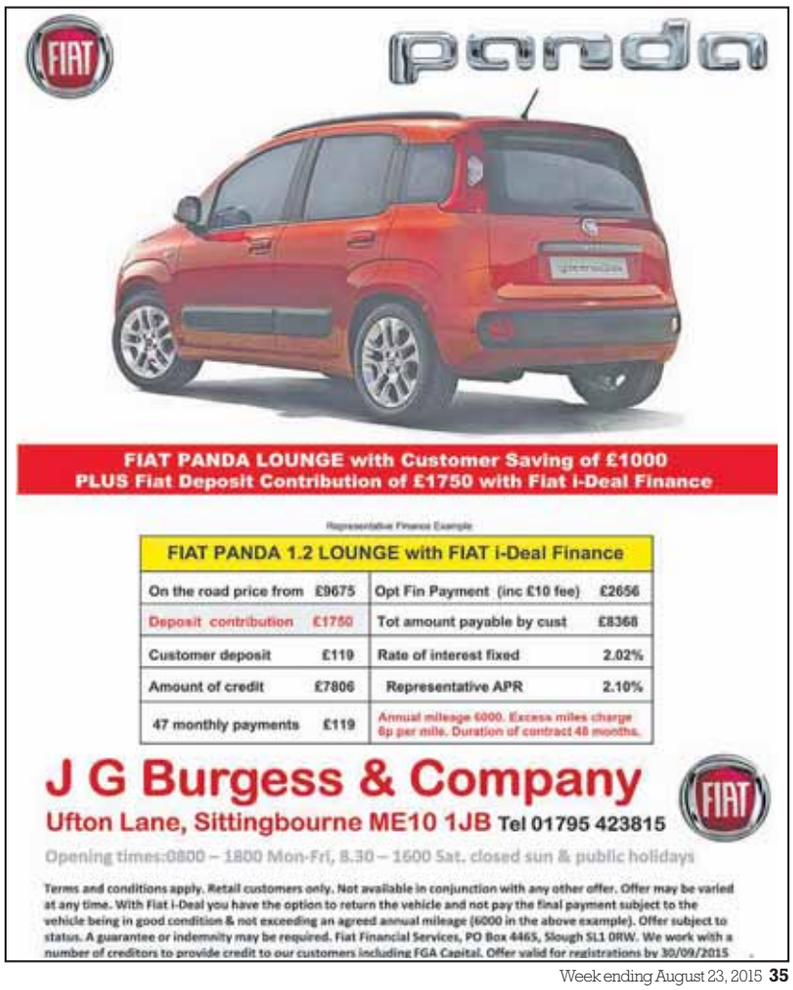
"Rural buildings use can be changed more easily than under the previous government, and that means that farms are more able to adapt and diversify their businesses.

"I understand that businesses may need to develop in order to grow, and I'm happy to back that aspiration in order to ensure that our rural economy continues to go from strength-to-strength."



GOLD: Big bucks are being generated by business in rural areas. Right, Robin Edwards of the CLA.







EXCITING: A new show giving audiences a behind the scenes glimpse at productions including Guardians of the Galaxy and Game of Thrones will be making its way to Dartford later this year

Lifting the lid on the effects which make you gawp on the big screen

Molly Kersey looks at the work of one of the professionals who creates the make-up for films and TV

CREATING aliens and bringing fantasy characters to life are just some of the interesting parts of a job as a special effects make-up artist.

And a new show that details the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes of productions such as hit series Game of Thrones, and movies Guardians of the Galaxy and the Dark Knight Rises will be making its way to the Orchard Theatre in Dartford in October.

Special effects make-up artist David Brown is one of the professionals involved in the show – and he will be exposing the trade secrets to creating movie magic, giving audiences an insight into some iconic Hollywood scenes.

"I was part of the team who applied the Drax the Destroyer make-up on Guardians of the Galaxy," he said.

The film tells the story of a space adventurer called Peter Quill, played by Chris Pratt, who has to avoid capture from relentless bounty hunters after stealing an orb coveted by a powerful super villain.

"There were five people applying and it took five hours every day," Mr Brown added.

"There were some crazy aliens in that movie and I was lucky enough to have a hand in creating several of them."

Mr Brown said that applying the make-up could be a painstakingly long process.

"Time is always an issue on set as every minute costs a lot of money, usually as a make-up artist who is applying you are given a time to complete the make-up, sometimes on smaller movies you are asked how long it will take," he said.

"A small and very simple piece can be applied and painted in five to 10 minutes but the longer the better so you have more time to work on it.

"Full character make-ups can take up to six hours to apply, the start time for these will be early morning – 1am or 2am to get ready to begin filming around 8am, through to 7pm and then an hour or so to remove."

And careful planning is key.

"Depending on the size of film it can take months to prepare," added Mr Brown.

"As designer there is the job of script analysis and a lot of paper work to get the ground work done.

"Meetings with the creative team of the movie will refine the designs and ideas to within the concept that the director envisions.

"Then it is into the workshop to take lifecasts of the actors, sculpting the creatures, aliens, ageing onto the lifecast. Moulding all of this in fibre glass and after some hefty cleaning of the moulds injecting it with silicone.

"Sometimes, all this prep is done a few months before filming begins so that a stock of prosthetics can be built and then while filming is happening more pieces are being made and painted ready for application at a later date."

He said that meetings with both directors and actors were key to creating the make up.

"It is my job to translate what the director has in their head into a workable 3D creation that helps tell the story," he explained.

"Numerous meetings take place to ensure that what is being created will meet the director's expectations.

"Essentially all the creative teams are there to tell a story and the director is the one who says how that story will be told.

"Having a meeting with the actor is always beneficial when creating a make-up, especially if it is restrictive in some way.

"The movement of the character may inform on how the piece is sculpted and thus how it is applied to allow the actor to perform without feeling restricted.

"We aid the actor in creating the character they are playing, so a dialogue needs to take place to make this collaboration as effective as possible."

Mr Brown said that he decided to become a make-up artist after several years of working in costume, during which he realised that he wanted a change.

"I was watching the special features of a movie and there was a section on make-up. I thought it looked interesting so I looked into courses," he said.

"I began by taking a three-day prosthetic course and then a two-week summer school in Glasgow. That built up a few pieces in my portfolio and the rest was luck and hard work."

The first movie that he worked on was Les Miserables – adapted from the world-famous musical set in 19th century France.

"I was a silicone runner for Kristyan Mallett, the prosthetics make-up supervisor," he said.

So what advice would he give to anyone else who is hoping to follow the same career path?

"Personally, I think there is no true way into the film industry, hard work and determination are your biggest assets," he said.

"There are colleges which teach make-up to a high standard; research them and see if any of them are for you. If you are looking to get into special effects make-up specifically I would recommend taking some short courses which will give you immediate practical skills and some experience and understanding of the processes involved in creating and applying make-up.

"Practice and build a small portfolio so that you have something to show, then contact workshops and designers offering yourself as work experience and if you're alert, curious and respectful you will learn a ton of skills, tips and tricks from the people you meet.

"It can take years to build up a momentum in the industry so it is something that you need to have a passion for. If you have that, go get it!"

■ **The Hollywood Special Effects Show will be at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, on October 4 at 5pm.**

To book, call the theatre's box office on 01322 220000 or www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.



ARTIST: David Brown. Picture: Karla Gowlett.



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HELLGATE: Last year's event at the Winter Gardens proved a monster hit with horror fans... this year's will be even bigger, badder and bloodier

Hellgate returns and will 'be bigger, badder and bloodier'

Get set to be scared in Margate this Halloween as horror show comes back to life...

MARGATE is the place to be this Halloween, say organisers behind a popular scare attraction.

The Halloween attraction was a sell-out success last year and is returning to the county and hoping to provide the perfect treat for horror fans in Kent.

Hellgate Winter Gardens will be returning to the Margate Winter Gardens for the second year, offering a number of spooky attractions for visitors to enjoy.

The five-day long attraction will be running from October 27 to 31.

And organisers say that this year's event promises to be even bigger and scarier than before.

Entertainment manager Paul Palmer is looking forward to what's in store.

"I am thrilled to be bringing our sell-out scare attraction back to Margate for its second year," he said.

"After last year's overwhelming response to our Zombie Apocalypse event, we have decided to return with a completely new and immersive set of scares."

So what will this year's event have to offer visitors?

"We have a completely different layout this year, offering a full evening of terror with not one but three story-based thrillers," Mr Palmer explained.

The immersive experience at Hellgate Winter Gardens will include the all-new Bloody Boulevard, which will feature scare fair stalls, trick or treat street theatre, roaming characters, themed food and beverages and games.

There will also be vendors at the attraction each night, as well as the new Laser Zombie run zone.

The new attractions start where last year's Zombie Apocalypse event left off.

With organisers remaining tight-lipped about the new attractions' names and details about what they offer for the time being, but insist that all will be revealed very soon.

And Mr Palmer hopes that people will return to see what this year's event has in store.

He believes Margate has a huge amount to offer people this Halloween.

He explained: "Given the tremendous support we received last year, we are extremely excited to be back.

"Last year was just a taste of what's in store. This year it will be bigger, badder and bloodier. We can't wait to be a part of what is certain to be a huge Halloween for Margate with our all new Hellgate event, plus Dreamland, Old Town Zombie Walk and Tudor House all hosting events this October.

"Margate will be the scare destination of the South East with something for everyone."

The fun/horror will be taking place each evening from 6.30pm to 10pm.

Early bird tickets, which can be purchased before September 14, are on sale for all of the Hellgate Winter Gardens dates.

There are a number of VIP passes available, which offer entrance to the Hellgate Scare Fair queue jump and unlimited scares - are available and start from £21.

Separate scare passes and venue passes are also available, with prices starting at £13.50 and £5 respectively.

For more details, visit www.halloweenmargate.com or call the box office on 01843 292795.

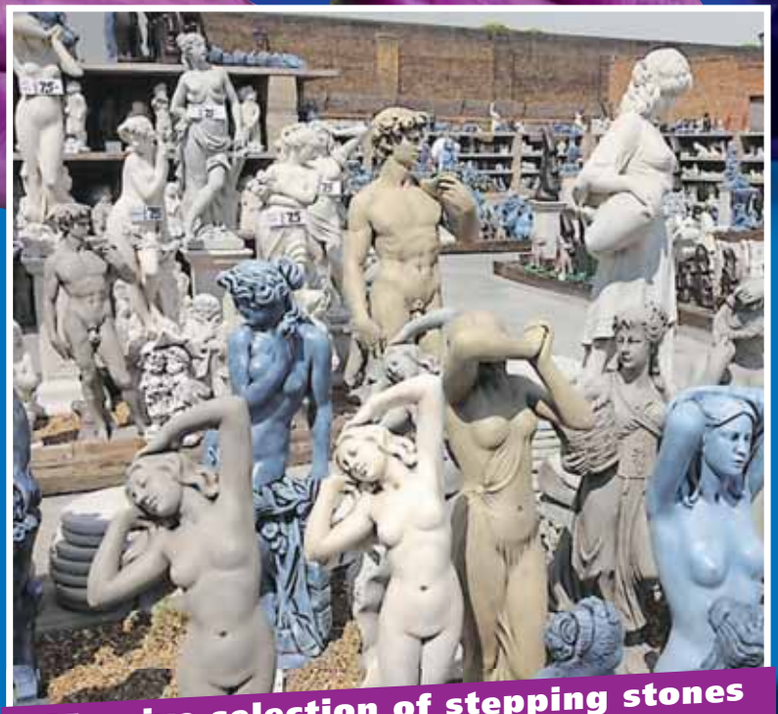
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FOLKESTONE Jazz Club at the Tower Theatre, North Road, Shorncliffe, plays host to The Craig Milverton Quartet as they play the music of Oscar Peterson on Tuesday, August 25, at 8pm. Call 01303 277175.

City hosts A Few Wise Words

THE award-winning festival of poetry and storytelling – A Few Wise Words – is coming to Canterbury between September 4th – 6th. It features talks, music, performances, stories as well as poetry and among those taking part is George the Poet. For details, or to book tickets, visit www.wisewordsfestival.co.uk

Get real hot at chilli fest



MORE than 100 types of chillies will be available for tasting at the Challock Chilli Fest at Victoriana Nursery, Challock, between 10.30am and 4pm on Saturday and Sunday, October 3 and 4.

Bank Holiday survival skills

PENSHURST Place is giving visitors the chance to discover the tricks of traditional camping in a 'hands-on' survival skills demonstration by the Bushcraft Company. Available on Bank Holiday Sunday and Monday, the free activities are suitable for children aged 7 to 14. To find out more, visit www.penshurstplace.com/whats-on

Mousetrap is still setting records and still thrilling huge audiences

By Molly Kersery

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A Gatha Christie's beloved thriller The Mousetrap makes its way to Canterbury next month.

The play is famous around the world for being the longest running show of its kind – it made its West End debut back in 1952 and has run continuously ever since, recently celebrating 26,000 performances.

The original production starred the late Richard Attenborough and his wife Sheila Sim.

Packed full of intrigue and suspense, the murder mystery continues to break box office records.

The scene is set when a group gathered in a country house cut off by snow, discover that there is a murderer in their midst.

One by one the suspicious characters reveal their sordid pasts until the last nerve-shredding moment, when the identity and the motive are finally revealed.

The ending of the murder mystery play remaining a surprise was paramount for Dame Christie.

It is traditional that people who watch the play are asked not to reveal the identity of the murderer to anyone who is outside of the theatre - so that it doesn't ruin the conclusion for any future audiences.



THRILLER: Edward Elgood (Christopher Wren) and Esther McAuley (Mollie Ralston) in The Mousetrap

The cast for the 2015 tour includes Hester Arden, whose previous stage credits include Macbeth, as Miss Casewell, Edward Elgood as Christopher Wren and Mark Homer, known for his role as Tony Hill in EastEnders, as Giles Ralston.

Esther McAuley will play Mollie Ralston and Jonathan Sidgwick, who has starred in Hollyoaks and Coronation Street, will take on the role of Mr Paravicini.

The 60th anniversary and UK tour of the theatre thriller has been seen by more than 600,000 people across more than 600 performances – breaking box office records in many of its venues.

Mousetrap Productions has also licensed 60 productions of The Mousetrap worldwide to mark the 60th year, from Cape Town to Philadelphia and Singapore to Sydney.

The Mousetrap will be at the Marlowe Theatre from September 1 to 5. Performances are at 7.30pm and 2.30pm. Tickets are £20 to £38.50 and concessions are available. Call 01227 787787 or visit www.marlowetheatre.com.







New cook book drops the carbs in favour of fat

The Real Meal Revolution promises to help you lose weight and still enjoy meat, butter and cream...

IN terms of kitchen 'outlaws', sugar has completely overtaken fat as public enemy number one.

In fact, fat has been making something of a comeback in recent years, and the latest advocates to sing its praises are sports scientist and marathon runner Professor Tim Noakes, nutritionist Sally Ann-Creed and chef and open ocean swimmer Jonno Proudfoot.

Their book, The Real Meal Revolution, has taken South Africa by storm and has just landed on UK shores, promising to help people lose weight without giving up all that juicy meat, butter and cream.

There is a catch, though – carbs are strictly off the menu. This low-carbohydrate, high-fat (LCHF) plan has similarities with the Paleo diet, in that it advocates a return to eating what our ancient ancestors, the hunter-gatherers, ate some 200,000 years ago – before we started cultivating grains.

It also draws heavily on the Banting diet devised by British undertaker William Banting, who famously gave up the carb-rich eating habits of the Victorians in the 1860s to cure himself of obesity.

Of course, low or no-carb/high fat and protein diets have always been somewhat controversial, attracting both fierce critics and fans.

Prof Noakes, however, is convinced that this eating regime has benefited his own health. "We've been raised to believe that cholesterol, caused by eating too much fat, causes diseases, and that every disease in the book is linked to a high-fat diet. It turns out that's completely wrong," claims Noakes, who has Type 2 diabetes but, at 66, says he's running like a 40-year-old.



SWIMMER: Jonno Proudfoot

"What's killing us is having elevated blood insulin concentrations all the time, and that is caused by high-carbohydrate diets and it's exacerbated in people like myself, who have insulin resistance. Insulin resistance is the most prevalent medical condition in the world, it dwarves everything else."

To devise their recipes, Proudfoot drew up three lists – green, orange and red – of foods people should eat in abundance, be wary of and avoid altogether, with meat, cheese and leafy greens all on the green list; fruit, nuts and root veggies on the orange list and all flour, grains, cake, rice, pasta, sugar, potatoes and even peas on the red list.

So popular has it been in South Africa, that supermarkets have struggled to keep up with demand for Banting ingredients, including cauliflower, which forms the basis of several recipes, such as cauli-wraps, cauli-mash and cauli-rice.

Proudfoot had the idea for a cookbook when he was training to swim from Mozambique to Madagascar and wanted to chart his diet. He approached Prof Noakes and Creed, and together the three have come up with a radical attack on carbohydrates.

Instead of getting energy from carbs, The Real Meal Revolution aims to 're-train' the body to run on fat, which keeps you fuller for longer - meaning lots of butter, coconut oil, full-fat cream and cheese go into the recipes.

Ramsgate volunteers

THE Ramsgate Festival (previously known as the Summer Squall) is on the lookout for volunteers for this year's event.

Held between August 29 and 31, organisers are seeking help with stewarding, assisting workshops, collections and general setting up to bonfire helping, wood collecting and creating. Anyone willing to help, is asked to register their interest at www.ramsgatearts.org/wpgforms/volunteer

Hever hosts the Tudors

EXPERIENCE life during the Tudor period at the historic 13th century Hever Castle. From August 29 to 31, the popular attraction will allow visitors the chance to explore a Tudor encampment with displays of authentic crafts, listen to historic tales and witness more thrills and spills from brave knights in an exciting jousting tournament. For more details, call 01732 865224 or visit hevercastle.co.uk.

Pair 'just gotta dance'

ANTON Du Beke and Erin Boag – the king and queen of ballroom – are to bring their new show 'just gotta dance' to Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre on February 4 and 5 next year. The show features sensational choreography, stunning costumes and wonderful music from vocalist Lance Ellington and the 25-piece London Concert Orchestra conducted by Richard Balcombe. For details, call 01227 787 787.

Album for Swing Noir

KENT-based musical duo Swing Noir were formed in November last year and have just released their debut album. Musicians Serena Sykes and Jim Knowler, played their first gig at Ramsgate's Kings Theatre in December and are now gaining a strong following by bringing their own swing and jazz sound to some classic songs. To find out more about Swing Noir and their album, visit SwingNoir.co.uk.

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Dining on views in the Aosta Valley

TRAVEL REVIEW:
Aosta Valley







ITALIAN WITH A TEUTONIC NUANCE: The Aosta Valley offers stunning scenery and fantastic food and drink

I'M standing in the middle of scenery so staggeringly beautiful, they should probably re-shoot the opening scenes to The Sound of Music here. Picture-perfect pine forests, distant snow-capped mountains, even a gentle stream tinkling along in the background for good measure.

And yet, for all nature's magnificence in the Aosta Valley, in the Western Alps, there is only one thought in my head: 'I really, really want another hot chocolate'.

I know it's wrong; being privileged enough to see this sort of view but barely acknowledging it because I'm obsessing over hot chocolate.

And yes, of course, part of me is ashamed. But the other part doesn't care. An hour earlier, in the equally quaint and 'made-for-a-postcard' Italian alpine village of Gressoney-La-Trinite, we'd stopped off for an energizing snack to fire us up for our two-day hike, and that snack was the most delectable hot chocolate you could ever imagine.

And now, it's all I can think about.

'Sorry, no more until we get back tomorrow,' shrugs our guide, striking off along the alarmingly steep footpath. 'But it doesn't matter.'

At first, I'm slightly put out by this last comment. But over the rest of the day, his meaning becomes clear.

In reality 'it doesn't matter' I've just wasted an hour ignoring the awesome landscape we've been passing, because at every corner, every path, every time you peer over a peak, it's there: green, lush, tree-lined, meadow-dotted, flower-dusted Alpine perfection.

Even the grey rocks, randomly scattered from various winter avalanches and now standing stark and defiant against thick beds of grass and trees, have their own splendour.

Populated by the German Walser people, fleeing religious persecution in the 12th and 13th century, everything from the architecture, to the language (Walserdeutsch, a dialect that sounds similar to Flemish but is resolutely German) and the food (hearty, carb-fuelled dishes) is influenced by a certain Teutonic nuance.

On day two of our hike, to his delight, we do make a few more of these stops as we wend (mercifully) down the valley and back to Gressoney. Quads and glutes now aching, our pace becomes noticeably less urgent than the day before. The fact the sun is blazing also slows us down. We cool off by filling our water bottles in mountain streams, then prepare to indulge in yet another guilty pleasure - wine tasting.

We find a small bar in Gressoney-La-Trinite, offering incredible food (all served to fine dining standards) and fantastic wine. There's even a special wine-tasting course thrown in and, I can honestly say it's like no wine you've ever tasted.

'It's because we don't export any of this,' our 'master taster' explains - not even out of the Aosta Valley. 'You can only buy or taste most of these vintages here, in the local vicinity.'

As he proceeds through the tasting, dutifully explaining the basics of tannins, it's a mystery why they're not sending this wine out to the wider world - the 14% red is incredible.

Thankfully, they're a little less strict on the amount of local salami and cheeses you can take away, and after a quick scout of the local shops, my suitcase is packed with offensively pungent delicacies.

To be honest, our mere two-day hike, however steep the gradient on the first day, doesn't really justify all this wine, cheese and meat.

The Aosta Valley boasts some of the greatest treks in the Alps, including the 10-day, ominously named Trail of Giants. Perhaps if we'd attempted some of those, we'd have really deserved the endless treats we keep indulging in.

But then again, not everything has to be a trade-off. You can have a bit of German influence and a bit of Italian influence. You can have distant snow and blistering sunshine. You can have a small, rustic mountain hut and still enjoy fine dining. And you can think of hot chocolate and cheese 50 per cent of your time here, and yet still know you're in the middle of somewhere so magical it'll 100 per cent seep into your soul.

TRAVEL FACTS

:: Inghams is offering seven nights half board at the 4.5 diamond Chalet Hotel Breithorn, Champoluc, Italy, from £549 pp. Price includes return flights from London Heathrow to Milan-Malpensa and resort transfers. Regional departures also available. For details, call 01483 791 116 or visit www.inghams.co.uk.
:: For details on the region, visit www.aosta-valley.co.uk.

Film Reviews by Damon Smith



PAPER TOWNS
(12A, 116 mins) Drama/Comedy/Romance

BUOYED by the success of superior teen weepie The Fault In Our Stars, based on the book by John Green, scriptwriters Scott Neustadter and Michael H Weber attempt to recreate the magic with this faithful adaptation of Green's bittersweet third novel. Paper Towns deals with similar themes of alienation and sexual awakening from the perspective of peer pressured teenagers, whose existence hinges on finding a date for the end of year prom. Director Jake Schreier sensitively and earnestly navigates these turbulent waters, eliciting solid performances from a young cast including leading man Nat Wolff, who played blind best friend Isaac in The Fault In Our Stars. However, there's a refreshing refusal to succumb to sentimentality when the going gets tough and the script doesn't polish the characters' rough edges in order to tie up loose plot strands in a neat bow. Every childhood is tainted with confusion and disappointment, and this coming-of-age saga is no different.

VACATION
(15, 99 mins) Comedy/Drama/Ro

IN the 1980s, Chevy Chase and Beverly D'Angelo played hapless parents Clark and Ellen Griswold in three raucous comedies under the National Lampoon banner, which reflected the exquisite agony of spending quality time with loved ones during the holidays.Vacation, European Vacation and Christmas Vacation mined a rich vein of universal humour grounded in sibling rivalry and miscommunication between the generations. Writer-directors John Francis Daley and Jonathan M Goldstein's contemporary update borrows the title of the first film and recycles the central plot but spatters the heartfelt sentiment with a thick layer of filth. Elegance and sophistication are strangers to a lumbering script peppered with projectile vomiting. This is a joyless and charmless comedy of errors.



STRANGE MAGIC
(U, 99 mins) Animation/Musical/Fantasy/Romance.

A MIDSUMMER Night's Dream provides the loose inspiration for a computer-animated standoff between fairies, who can't help falling in love to Elvis Presley, and self-loathing bog creatures, who have been mistreated to Deep Purple. Strange Magic fails to deliver either part of its beguiling title. The cast belt out musical mash-ups from the past six decades a la Glee, including the title track by ELO, to verbalise trite emotions. There's absolutely no subtlety to the songbook and as we all know, even Wiiliam Shakespeare couldn't resist an occasional happy ending.

By Hannah Stephenson
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



MAINTENANCE: In summer it's vital to strike and maintain a balance to keep plants healthy and your pond's water fresh

Ponds – relax and watch the wildlife

IN our increasingly urban landscape, ponds not only provide a place of solace and relaxation, but also a fantastic haven for wildlife.

Yet they are not as low-maintenance as you might think, particularly in summer when it's vital to strike and maintain a balance to keep plants healthy and water fresh.

If you have recently installed a pond in your garden and it's looking a bit murky or the plants have started to take over and you can't see much surface area, it could be time to have a tidy up at the water's edge.

There are several common weeds which can cause trouble if left to spread. For example, blanket weed, a type of algae can build up into a thick, cotton wool-like mass which will choke the pond if left unchecked.

It can easily get out of control, especially if there aren't enough marginal and other pond plants, or if nitrogen fertiliser escapes into the pond from the surrounding area.

A bit of pond TLC now means you'll be able to enjoy a calm, soothing water feature for the rest of the season...

- Blanket weed needs to be removed regularly by hand. Alternatively, slip a bamboo cane into it and twirl it around so a big clump comes out in one go. Leave it by the side of the pond for a couple of days to give the pond creatures a chance to return to the water, then add it to the compost.
- Another common pond pain is duckweed. It has two small leaves floating on the surface and short trailing roots. If left to its own devices, it will soon multiply, forming mats that smother the pond; skim it off regularly with a fishing net.
- In the height of summer your pond will be in need of oxygen – especially if you have fish – and you may well need to top it up to replace the water that's evaporated. If your fish are at the surface gasping for air, spray the water surface with a fine shower from the hosepipe, it helps oxygenate the water faster.
- If you want to keep your water clear, it's best to cover half the surface with enough marginal plants and water lilies, or other water plants. You may also need to install a small underwater pump, which will aerate the water. If the plants start to look untidy, deadhead and cut as necessary.
- Water plants tend to grow rapidly in summer – and some will need thinning out. Canadian pondweed (Elodea canadensis), for example, is a submerged oxygenating plant that needs dragging out with a rake, while other water plants can just be cut back.
- Crowded leaves on water lilies may need thinning out, while excess growth from submerged oxygenating plants will also need stripping out. Remember, make sure you don't displace any young fish in the process.
- Don't use too many chemicals or fertilisers near the pond, they can kill fish and encourage algae growth.
- Don't worry if your new pond turns green - this often happens because the water is laden with minerals and nutrients. Once a balance is reached, it should clear, but if an established pond has gone green, try using a biological treatment or chemical free barley straw pads.

GREAT
BRITISH LIFE



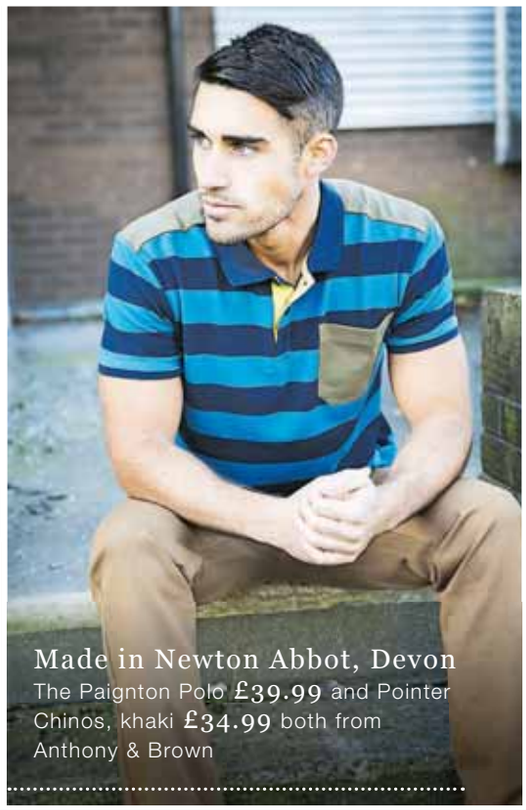












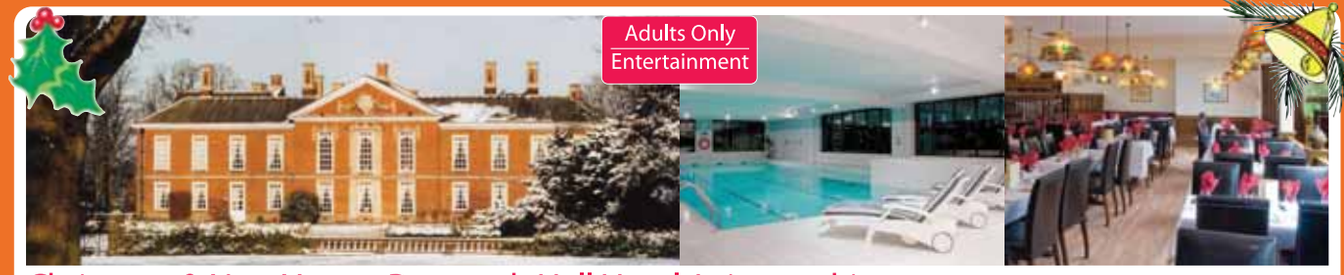




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Christmas & New Year at Bosworth Hall Hotel, Leicestershire

Christmas: 23 Dec, 2015 • 4 nights half board, £**239**pp • Quote: CB12-KOS

New Year: 30 Dec, 2015 • 3 nights half board, £**249**pp • Quote: NB12-KOS

Festive Season at Bosworth Hall is going to be extra special this year. We've got Christmas and New Year breaks - for adults only - full of festive cheer, including meals and entertainment.

4-night Christmas break includes a welcome drink on arrival with an opportunity to meet the staff, mulled wine and mince pies after Midnight Mass and a full traditional Christmas lunch with all the trimmings. Breakfast and dinner each day and nightly entertainment are also included.

3-night New Year break includes a welcome drink on arrival plus a Gala Hogmanay buffet dinner. Breakfast and dinner each day and entertainment each evening are also included.

INCLUDED - Christmas: 4 nights stay at Bosworth Hall Hotel sharing a twin/double bedded room with en-suite facilities • 4 breakfasts, 3 dinners and 1 Christmas lunch • Entertainment every evening

INCLUDED - New Year: 3 nights stay at Bosworth Hall Hotel sharing a twin/double bedded room with en-suite facilities • 3 breakfasts, 2 dinners and 1 Gala Hogmanay buffet • Entertainment every evening



Christmas Cracker Party through the Decades

20 November, 2015 • 3 nights half board-plus, £**129**pp • Quote: CC11-KOS

Join us for an over 40s Christmas party weekend to remember as we re-wind the decades and go back to the 60s, 70s and 80s at Pontins Pakefield, by the sea near Lowestoft, Suffolk. Enjoy live music from original 70s band Brotherhood of Man, 60s rockers The Swinging Blue Jeans and the new touring show Whitney – Queen of The Night. Add 3 Free Drinks per person per night and you've got the perfect recipe for a great party weekend.

INCLUDED: 3 Free drinks every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrade available • Towels & linen



We Love the 60s Spring Party Weekend

11 March, 2016 • 3 nights half board-plus, £**129**pp • Quote: PS3-KOS

Join us at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast, for a Spring Party - for over 40s only - to blow away the winter cobwebs. We've lined up a brilliant entertainment showbill featuring The Ivy League, The Merseybeats and The Pacemakers plus tributes to The Beach Boys and The Beatles. With non-stop entertainment from Friday evening to Sunday evening and free drinks every night, this is one party weekend you're sure to love.

INCLUDED: 3 Free drinks per person per night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full 60s theme entertainment programme • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrade available



Worthing Winter Warmer Party - Chatsworth Hotel

29 Jan & 5 Feb, 2016 • 2 nights half board-plus, £**129**pp • Quote: WG1/2-KOS

Join us in Worthing for a Winter Warmer Party and enjoy £1 drinks and live entertainment every night. The Chatsworth is one of the finest hotels on the south coast, just a stone's throw from the sea and a short stroll to the town centre. All bedrooms are en-suite and a lift services all floors.

INCLUDED: £1 drinks from 7pm to 10pm both evenings - pint of house beer or small glass of wine • 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts • Live nightly entertainment • 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV & free wifi



Carry on New Year Party at Bosworth Hall

29 January, 2016 • 2 nights half board-plus, £**119**pp • Quote: BW1-KOS

Extend your New Year celebrations at Bosworth Hall Hotel, in the village of Market Bosworth near Leicester. Our popular private party weekends have become a must-do annual event with guests returning year after year. We've arranged a super entertainment line-up for our Party Break, including tributes to Frankie Valli, The Eagles and Kenny & Dolly. You will also enjoy 2-for-1 drinks both nights.

INCLUDED: 2-for-1 drinks from 7pm to 11pm both nights • 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV & tea/coffee tray • 2 dinners & 2 breakfasts • Full programme of live entertainment both nights • Free use of leisure facilities (indoor pool & gym)





Back to the 60s Carry on New Year Party

8 January, 2016 • 3 nights half board-plus, from £**229**pp • Quote: BP1-2-KOS

Join us for a private New Year party at Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel on the Isle of Wight as we extend the festivities into January and take you on a trip back to the 1960s. Our exclusive weekend, designed specially for the over 40s generation, includes a gala New Year's Eve party PLUS Free Drinks every night from 6pm-midnight. The entertainment line-up features authentic 60s Bands The Fourmost and Union Gap, plus a tribute to Dusty Springfield.

INCLUDED: Free drinks from 6pm to midnight every night - beers - house lager, bitter and cider; branded spirits including Smirnoff, Bacardi, Bells, Gordon's Gin, Courvoisier, Lambs Navy Rum, Martini & Harveys Bristol Cream Sherry; wine by the glass; draught soft drinks and cordials • 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts • 1960s themed live nightly entertainment • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades to main hotel available • Return car ferry crossing Portsmouth-Fishbourne or Lymington-Yarmouth



Come Dancing Carry on New Year Party

8 January, 2016 • 3 nights half board-plus, from £**279**pp • Quote: BP1-3-KOS

Dance enthusiasts can enjoy dance tuition, dance cabaret, social dancing, a Gala Ball and much more at our Carry on New Year party weekend at Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel on the Isle of Wight. Six Times UK Ten Dance Champions Richard Still and Morgan Hemphill will dance 2 evening sessions for us and also provide a Latin workshop. Dance tuition - up to 8 hours - is by Philip Wylie of Ballroom & Latin Dance specialists **Holiday & Dance**. There are reserved tables and seating exclusively for a maximum of 200 dance guests who also have access to the show lounge with our super 60s entertainment line-up.

INCLUDED: Free drinks from 6pm to midnight every night • 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts • Live nightly entertainment • Social dancing • Dance demonstrations and tuition • Gala New Year's Eve Ball • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades to main hotel available • Return car ferry crossing Portsmouth-Fishbourne or Lymington-Yarmouth

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Stack solution is Samphire Hoe

FIRSTLY, I see you and David Cameron have yet again ignored the obvious solution to Operation Stack and the Calais mess.

The main solution must be to get traffic away from Snargate Street in Dover and feed the docks via a viaduct from the waste of space that is Samphire Hoe.

It solves the majority of problems Manston can never solve. In fact the Manston idea is just expanding the problem. A joke apart from the mess and problems it will create.

As for the last Stack scenario and police costs, I would love to know how it's so expensive as having been on the road a few times I saw but three officers on the roundabouts and early one morning none at all or at any roundabout through Dover.

Paying for all this is down to the French. They created the problem so they get the bills. Although if the government had any brains the problem and cost of creating the solutions could be funded by the overseas development and aid budget.

The Calais solution means the French should build a new camp or series of camps at least 100km from Calais.

Calais should be made, as should all ports, into 'no go zones' and any sham migrants should be deported directly.

The present appeasement attitude and deluded ideas of our and the French governments is not acceptable under EU or other treaties.

Now we know the environmentalists will have a field day regarding Samphire. The walkers will again screw up the countryside as will many others blinded by the do-good attitudes the preach.

Yet the facts remain; it makes far more sense to use that man made area for the benefit of all, not just a few.

It's time to wake up and stop shamming the public with stupid ideas like Manston.

Derek Packham,
Deal

Stop rounding on the motorist

TWO items last week made depressing reading for Kent's drivers.

First, the item on the Europe-wide crackdown on speeding drivers repeated the old assumption that a third of crashes are down to speeding. Wrong; in this country at least, it's as little as five per cent, though it may affect severity of injury.

Other reasons account for far more, most notably, inattention/distraction, drink/drugs and plain misjudgement.

The same thing emerged in the second item, the letter from CPRE's Alex Hills. His plea for roads to better accommodate cycles and walkers ignores the fact that those transport modes are suitable only for comparatively local journeys, and the car (or van) is the transport of choice for most because that fits in with modern employment patterns – a lot of people cannot find work where they live and cannot afford to live where their work is – and not all have convenient or suitable public transport "on the doorstep".

The improvements he seeks would be at the further expense of often already congested road space, in favour of a minority who contribute little or nothing to the infrastructure maintenance financially compared with vehicle drivers. In the case of cycles, it is a tiny minority too, around two per cent. I would venture to suggest that KCC have in fact got their priorities right on that one – and that if it is really that terribly dangerous, its use on those highways that are unsuitable need discouraging, not promoting.

Then there's the usual disinformation on health and air quality. For reasons stated above "getting people out of their cars" will make little difference because of the nature of many journeys. In any case, the choice of how to travel is down to those making the journey, not for anyone else to try and impose – travel choice means just that, including driving. Today's situation may not be perfect, but we have some of the cleanest air since before the industrial revolution.

Ian Taylor,
Alliance of British Drivers, Dover

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Forget Manston what about using Detling?

I HAVE never written to a newspaper before, but I felt compelled over the issue of Operation Stack and Manston Airport.

In my estimation, the government have got it badly wrong with regards where to put the lorries when there is a need for Stack to be in place.

I feel it would be better to turn Detling showground into a lorry park equipped with facilities and then make either Manston or Folkestone Racecourse a show ground.

The infrastructure is already in place at both venues. This would keep the lorries using the M20 and not switching them from the M20 to the M2 and clogging the country roads around Manston.

If Manston was to be used as the Kent showground on a permanent basis, this would only make this area busy on a weekend once a year and any other shows could take place as and when required.

There are a lot of very lovely villages in and around the Manston air field that will be devastated if this is used by the lorries as a parking facility, trundling through the area at all times.

As none of the government live in this area it would not affect them or their way of life.

I use the M20, M2 and A2 many times a year getting to and from Dover and the past few years have been a nightmare.

It is time due consideration was given to this problem and not to dump it on the first area they stick a pin into.

Tony Outram,
Dartford

What do you think of the Stack 'solution' at Manston? Do you think Detling would have been better? Write to us and share your views at the address on the left.

No one expects the Inquisition...

JUST like John Humphrey, I replied to Mr Hudson-Gool/St.Duff, but didn't get printed [KoS Letters, ad nausea].

I see Chris Hudson-Gool has joined forces with St. Duff, to bully those who don't agree with their views, into meek acceptance! Even God doesn't escape!

So much for the freedom our fathers fought for.

He also has the breath taking arrogance to decide what we do, or don't believe and then comment on it. They have the audacity to assume caring and wisdom not endowed on us ordinary mortals and deride us in a fashion which wouldn't be tolerated for their pet subjects.

Good job they weren't both around during the Inquisition.

The issue of homosexuality is exactly the same as all the other issues, where one minority group is perceived to be different to another, and the minority group and their apologists make the issue worse by the continual highlighting of the difference and the demands they be treated as a 'special' case.

Nigel Farage summed it all up when asked what Ukip's policy was towards homosexuals and he said, 'We don't have a policy, they're the same as everyone else'. And so they are.

God gave us free will and it's our choice to take the course we decide on. Which means the rest of us are also free to think and feel as we like, not be bullied and harassed into the sort of thinking where ordinary people are persecuted, fined and imprisoned for their thoughts and beliefs by rigid dogmatists.

Phil Granger,
West Malling

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
3) Be written in clear, concise English.
4) Not be overly sensational.
5) Have a sense of humour.
6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.

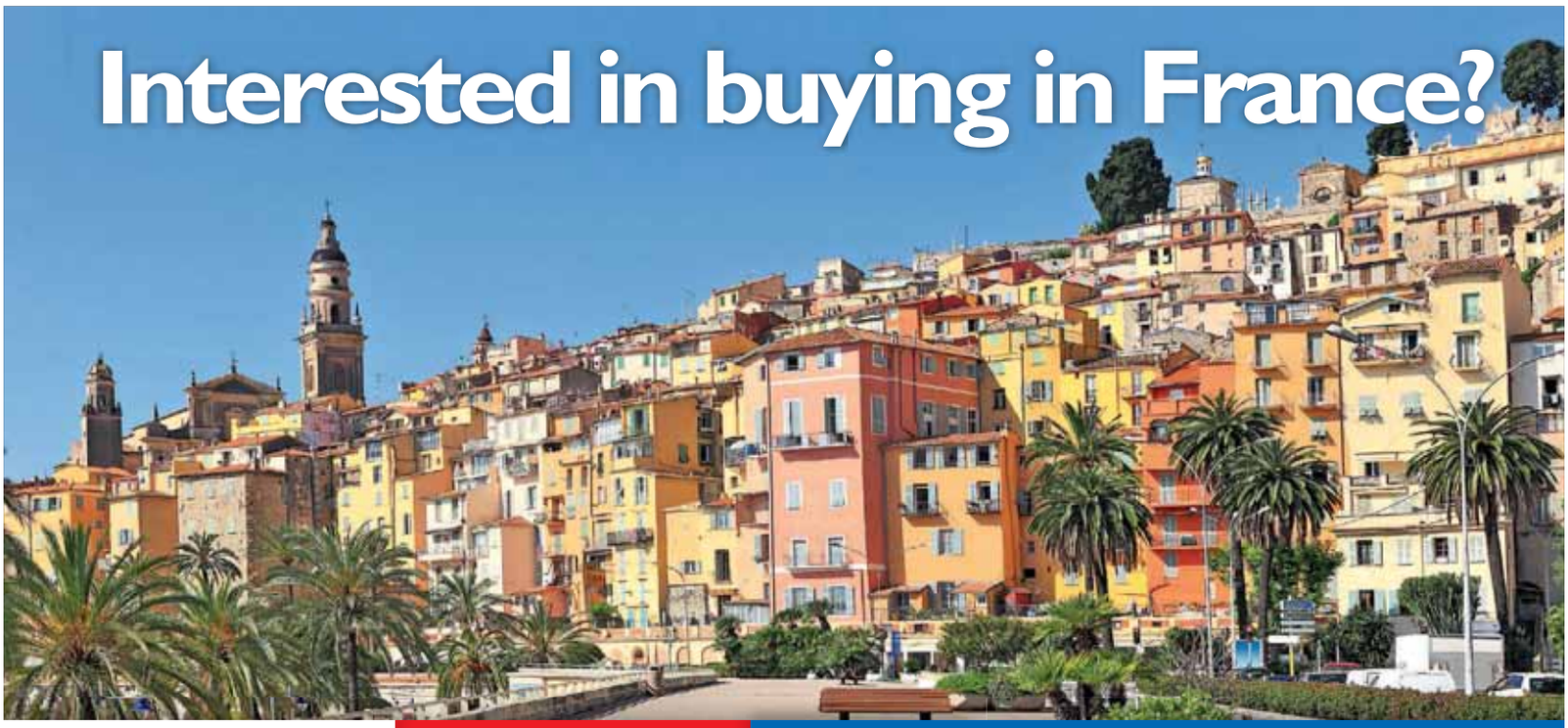
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Otterden, near Faversham

by **Rosie Baker from Otterden**

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Note: all digital images must be no less than 200dpi.
Please note, our relationship with MyFerryLink has now come to an end. We thank them for their long support.



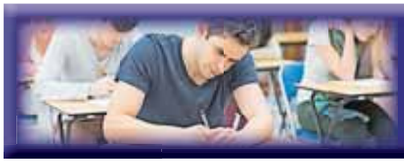
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GCSE RESULTS



It all adds up! Academic excellence at Kent College as overall pass rate hits 100 per cent

KENT COLLEGE is celebrating its best ever GCSE results following this summer's examinations.

The overall pass rate was 100 per cent with 76 per cent of all grades achieved at A* to B grades.

The Maths department were in early to celebrate their 100 per cent success with all students attaining A* to C in this key subject.

These statistics follow on from the excellent results at A level and IB already announced.

Students who did particularly well include the following top performers: Elizabeth Brown, Bill Cain, Ira Akbas, Charlotte Woods, Hanna Catrysse, Vlad Demyanyuk, Alvaro Diez-Aja, Luke Franks, Francesca Godden, Tamia Griffith, Amber de Moubray, Duncan Rondhout, Rita Khabirova, Frieda Liu, Jim Lyu, Sophie Wilson, Daniel Marsik, Gareth Owens, Sophie Parker, Huan Qu, Finn Quealy, Clio Rudgard-Redsell, Maddalena Rupnik, Michika Saji, Christy Siu, Anya Sochacka, Robert Sotillo, William Stratton, Min Baek, Georgia Timpson, Melody Triumph, Alena Vakulich, Johanna Van Gent Gonzalez, Luke Vincent, Jack Waddell, Hannah Watton, Olivia Whiting, Robbie Whittaker, Rhiannon Woodhams and Lilly Wren.



CELEBRATING: Kent College is celebrating its best ever GCSE results following this summer's examinations

Kent Collge head teacher Dr David Lamper said: "The pupils have achieved an excellent set of results and so have secured sound foundations for the next stage in their educational career.

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"Congratulations to them and to all of my colleagues for the hard work which makes excellent results like these possible"



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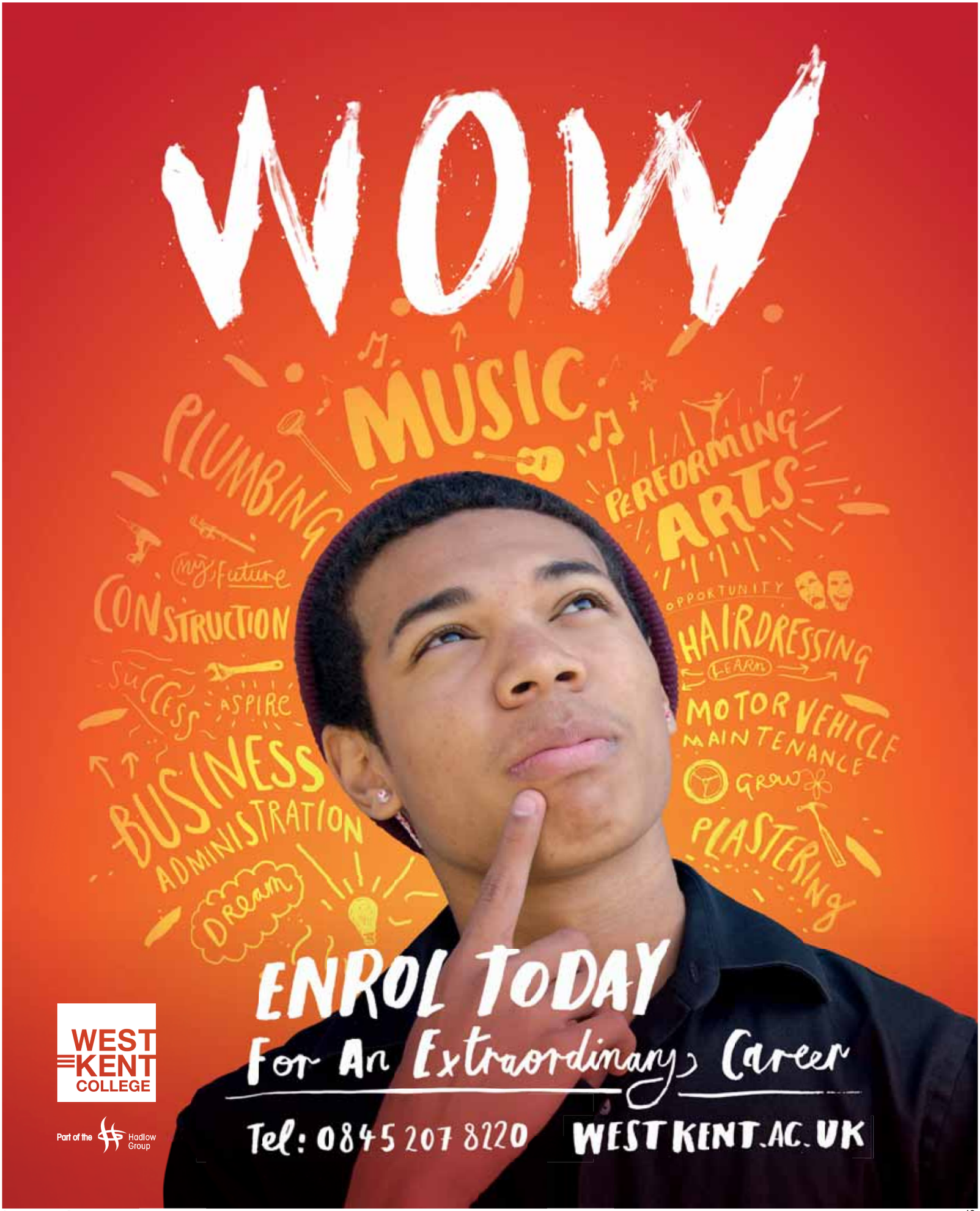
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driving

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



BACK TO TUCSON: The new Tucson replaces the ix35, that replaced the original Tucson. Still with me? Either way, the new car is very striking...

Hyundai heads back to Tucson

PREVIEW: Arizona city name returns as Korean brand seeks to build on ix35 SUV's consistent sales success for Hyundai UK

HYUNDAI axed the Tucson SUV in 2009, as it sought yet more distance between its former value brand stance and a new found premium ambition.

Its replacement in the mid-size SUV/crossover sector was the acclaimed ix35.

The newcomer's styling might have lacked cohesion, but there was no denying the leap in quality and refinement and Kent Hyundai dealers quickly found supplies failing to match demand.

And the ix35 went on to remain one of the Korean brand's UK best sellers, only to now get the chop itself in favour of the re-born Tucson (from £18,695).

Why? Well, the bigger Santa Fe has been a huge global success for Hyundai and the company would be nuts to rename that as an ix model, so continuity had to be satisfied by re-introducing the Tucson nameplate.

As ever with the Koreans, and sweeping aside any suggestions of a return to its old namesake's cheap and cheerful approach, the new model marks a revolution over the ix35, let alone the original Tucson.

This starts with looks drawing heavily on the chunky yet handsome Santa Fe, including a classy slatted grille, with headlamps neatly butting up to its shoulders.



The Santa Fe influence is also clear from the stylish yet robust interior, spacious passenger accommodation and decent-size boot (513 litres) plus generous full 'rear seats down' cargo area (1,503 litres) trumping another newly-launched rival, the Renault Kadjar.

Don't scoff at the flagship model's £32,345 price tag either; the ix35 set a precedent for Hyundai buyers trading up to premium variants in the range.

As with the ix35, new Tucson customers have a choice of front-wheel drive and 4x4 models, and diesel and petrol engines, though the latter seem pretty pointless when their diesel equivalents are so superior in refinement and economy, albeit for a £1,500 premium.

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KENT LIFE

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Maserati revival not all due to heritage

Classy Ghibli model could help Italian marque to ten-fold global increase in sales this year against its 2012 figure, writes **Steve Loader...**

MASERATI'S resurgence has been boosted by historic 'big three' status in Italian motor racing, along with Ferrari and Alfa Romeo.

Just one of many famous Maserati race and championship wins was Juan Fangio's clinching of a fifth world title at the 1957 German Grand Prix.

Expected to cruise to victory thanks to the proven superiority of the Maserati 250F, a bungled pit stop left the Argentine maestro trailing badly behind Ferrari's British duo, Peter Collins and Mike Hawthorn.

Undeterred, Fangio reeled them in and won anyway. The raffish Hawthorn apparently said: "You've got to hand it to the old boy!"

But such tales, plus legendary road cars like the 1970s mid-engine Bora and Merak, can only take modern sales volumes so far - you must deliver desirable modern cars too.

And Maserati is doing that: it sold just 6,000 cars globally in 2012, but 50,000 is expected in 2015, so growth and customer desire is there and much credit must go to the Ghibli tested here.

It's a four-door luxury saloon with a not unreasonable £49,160 starting price, making it highly competitive against similarly specified Germans like the BMW 5 Series and Mercedes-Benz E-Class, while oozing all the glamour of Maserati's trident badge.







The Ghibli name echoes the classic 1967-73 original, shaped by one of the great car designers, Giorgetto Giugiaro. But that car was a two-door 2+2: its modern namesake is a proper four-seater, also with a middle perch in the back and large 500-litre boot.

It's elegant too, cleverly mixing coupe and saloon lines, with nice touches like the trident rear pillar badges and three vents abaft each front wheel.

Yet it can perform day-to-day duties efficiently, especially as the all-automatic powertrain line-up includes a lively 3.0-litre V6 diesel engine offering 0-62mph in 6.3 seconds, not far shy of the two 3.0 V6 petrol options, while also bringing an official combined 47.9mpg.

What is more, the diesel revs well with a surprisingly sporty note to partner sharp handling. Ride comfort is good too for this performance saloon and many big car buyers will sense they can have their cake and eat it: sports car style and performance plus acceptable running costs.

Some would-be buyers will surely allow hearts to rule rather than heads and opt for petrol power, tested here in flagship Ghibli S format. It makes all the right noises and offers 0-62mph in five seconds, though using such acceleration pulverises the optimistic official combined 27.2mpg.

Then again, burbling along behind that engine, in a lavish cockpit with classic Maserati central timepiece, plus huge infotainment screen, would make it all worthwhile even if some attention to interior trimming detail might be in order.

Maserati Ghibli 3.0 V6 S

Price:	from £ £64,500
Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★
How green?:	★★★
Best rival:	BMW 5 Series



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Official fuel consumption figures for Maserati Ghibli range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 20.5 (13.8) – 37.2 (7.6), Extra Urban 39.8 (7.1) – 56.5 (5.0), Combined 29.4 (9.6) – 47.9 (5.9). CO_2 emissions 223 – 158 g/km. Fuel consumption and CO_2 figures are based on standard EU tests for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. Model shown is a Maserati Ghibli S at £68,913 On The Road including optional pearlescent paint at £1,776, 20" machine polished Urano alloy wheels at £2,205 and Red brake callipers at £432.

www.maserati.co.uk

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Official Government fuel consumption figures (Range): Urban cycle, Extra urban, Combined (litres per 100km/mpg) & CO_2 emissions (g/km); Highest:Citroën C1 PureTech 82 manual 5-door Feel 5.4/52.3, 3.7/76.3, 43/65.7, 99. Lowest:Citroën C1 VTi 68 S&S manual 3-door Flair 4.5/62.8, 3.4/83.1, 3.8/74.3, 88. MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions.

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The ideal candidate will be from a media background, and have knowledge of print and or digital advertising. However we will also consider applications from candidates with a strong B2B field sales background who knows Kent, builds rapport well and has a consultative sales approach.

With our excellent product training and our continuous development programme, we'll show you how to develop first class solutions for our customers, cultivate excellent business relationships and present effective and innovative ideas that will provide real value and response for our customers.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE WILL HAVE:

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With our excellent product training and our continuous development programme, we'll show you how to develop first class solutions for our customers, cultivate excellent business relationships and present effective and innovative ideas that will provide real value and response for our customers.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE WILL HAVE:

- A passion for publishing and lifestyle magazines
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- Proven face-to-face B2B sales experience
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To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:
Sue Jones, Ward Sister 01843 234552

Physio Administrator
Part time Hours: 15 per week Mon-Fri 1pm to 4pm Closing date: 04/09/2015
Salary: £15,153.19 per annum (pro rata)
Qualifications and Experience
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- RSA Stage 1 or 2 equivalent
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Interviews to be held 21 September 2015

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:
Adebayo Tijani, Physiotherapy Manager on 07479 987931

For a job description and application form please visit
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Alternatively, please contact **Joanne Wright, Senior HR Assistant**
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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – SECTION 116
STOPPING UP OF LAND AT LAND ADJOINING WHITSTABLE MEDICAL PRACTICE

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT The Kent County Council as Highway Authority for the County of Kent propose to make an application to the Magistrates' sitting at Canterbury Magistrates' Court on 29 September 2015 at for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land adjoining Chestfield Medical Centre, Reeves Way, Chestfield CT5 3QU as edged red on the plan on deposit.

A copy of the draft order and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of The Kent County Council at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ.

Any person to whom this Notice has been given or who uses the highway specified or who would be aggrieved by the making of the Order may appear before the Magistrates' Court to raise an objection or make a representation on the application. Any person intending to appear before the Magistrates' Court at the hearing of the application is requested to inform Charlotte Morgan GCILEx by post to Legal Services, The Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ, by email charlotte.morgan2@kent.gov.uk, or by telephone 03000 416689 before quoting reference number LS/21/108392/419.

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk

Application for the grant of a premises licence – Licensing Act 2003
The Post Office
71-72 London Road, Dover, CT17 0SR

Notice is hereby given that Sornavadirl Sarnaraja of Flat 1, Strawberry Vale, Twickenham, TW1 4RX has applied to Dover District Council for the grant of a premises licence in respect of the above premises to sell alcohol between the hours of 08:00 and 22:00 hours Monday to Sunday,

Full details of licensing applications can be inspected at http://www.dover.gov.uk/licensing or at Dover District Council, Whitfield, Dover, Kent. CT16 3PJ by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations in respect of my/our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above by Tuesday 15th September 2015

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

999 Logistics Ltd of Triple Nine House, Nepicar Park, London Road, Wrotham, Kent, TN15 7RR is applying to change an existing licence as follows: To add an operating centre to keep 14 goods vehicles and 6 trailers at Unit 1A Detling Aerodrome, Detling, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3HU.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Mr. Marx David White trading as Metro Mechanical Services Ltd is applying to change an existing licence as follows:

To add an operating centre to keep 15 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at Unit A3, Lion Business Park, Deering Way, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2DN.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.



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Gills boss happy with season start

But Justin Edinburgh says the team need to build on it...

Football

By Jamie Weir

jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

GILLINGHAM FC didn't get a great start to the season last year.

In fact, the start of their 2014-2015 campaign saw them lose three of their first six games, with one draw.

This season though, the squad seem to have been transformed.

Unbeaten at the time KoS went to press, the Gills look every bit the team on the rise.

The team's gaffer Justin Edinburgh says that though they're doing well, success is more than just the first few games of the season.

He told KoS: "Obviously I'm delighted with the start we've had, but we cannot afford to get carried away with it.

"A start is after all just a start, and although we're unbeaten right now, there's no room for complacency on this team.

"We now need to make sure we're building on these wins."

It'll be Edinburgh's first full season in the Gillingham hot seat after he took over when former manager Peter Taylor was sacked over the New Year.

He says that he's been happy with the way the team has responded to their training over the summer.

He said: "We've got a lot of young, hungry players who are looking to make a name for themselves. They've got a great work ethic, and want to learn. They show so much commitment to the team on the training field, as well as during matches."

The lack of experience from the younger players could come at a cost according to Edinburgh but he thinks it is well worth it.



DELIGHTED: The gaffer says the team's attitude is just right

Pictures: ADY KERRY

He told KoS: "There will be times where that lack of experience will cost us. I know that there will be a few bumpy moments, but if they don't play they'll never get experience.

"I've got faith in the team, and I think that all of the guys on it, whether they have experience or not, deserve their place on the pitch."

Having to come back after being a goal down in two of their games shows what the team are made of according to Edinburgh.

He said: "We're always strive for more, and want to do better and even though we've come back in a couple of games, I think we're doing a great job.

"If you're going to have any success in football, you need to have a great attitude and team spirit. That's exactly what our lads have."

Spitfires roar into One Day Cup quater finals

AFTER a testing time in the County Championship, which has seen them sitting at the bottom of the table for most of the season, Kent have had a another success in white ball cricket.

This week, the county side booked themselves a place in their second white ball quarterfinals of this season – the Royal London One Day Cup.

But they didn't get the spot in the final eight after a game, instead taking the place as a result of the weather after a rain halted play at Edgbaston.

It came just a week after the disappointment of Kent's loss in the T20 quarterfinals when Kent were beaten by Lancashire Lightning.

Lancashire – alongside Warwickshire – had been in the running to get into the quarterfinals too.



INJURY: Kent's Sam Billings

But with wet weather across the country meaning none of the matches were able to take to the field for any length of time, Kent's superior run-rate saw them exact some small revenge on Lancashire Lightning, knocking them out of the cup.

The result means that Kent will now take on Surrey at the Oval rekindling the so-called 'oldest rivalry in county cricket' – because the earliest known county match took place between Kent and Surrey in 1709.

The match will be held this Thursday (August 27) with a 2pm start.

One player who may not be fit to take to the field is Kent wicketkeeper Sam Billings who was taken to hospital for X-rays on Friday after damaging his left hand on the opening day of the County Championship game against Derbyshire.

He injured his ring finger taking the 13th ball of the morning.

Sport Shorts

» Email **sports@kosmedia.co.uk** or call **Jamie Weir** on **01233 653481**

Fleet plunged into dark at Stonebridge ground

FLEET fans were left in the dark after a floodlight failure as the team took on Weston-super-Mare at Stonebridge Road.

It was the worst possible time for the failure too, after Ebbsfleet had a great start with two goals courtesy of Matt Godden and Danny Kedwell.

But disaster struck just seconds after the half-time whistle as two of the stadium's floodlights failed before the ground was plunged into darkness as the remaining floodlights went out.

The referee called the game off moments later dashing the team's hopes for three points.

Vice chairman Peter Varney said that the club had found serious faults in the distribution board wiring structure, which had led to the floodlight failures.

He said that it was 'disappointing' for a relatively new system, and that it was being rectified immediately.

The club says fans will get free tickets to the replay of the game which will be played on September 22.



PROBLEM: The club has started an investigation

Shakey wants to taste the Champagne again

REIGNING four time British Superbike champion Shane Shakey Byrne says he wants to get back to winning ways as he takes to the track this weekend.

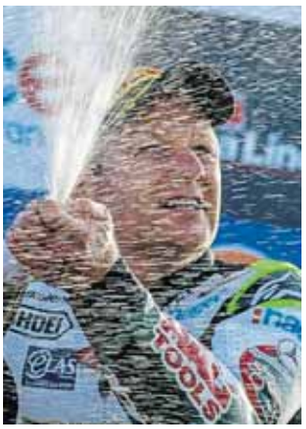
The Sittingbourne-based racer has not won since he raced at Knockhill in July, but when he gets back on his PBM Kawasaki this weekend, only one thing's going to be on his mind.

He said: "For both PBM Kawasaki and myself Thruxton was a disaster.

"It would be great to bounce back with two strong finishes for the efforts myself and the team have been putting in."

Byrne currently sits atop the podium points table – something he'd like to add to after confirming his place in the end of season showdown.

He said: "I don't care that we are not in the championship lead – what I care about is being in the best possible position as we go into the showdown. Now we are confirmed in that only the podium points matter. I would like to think this will be a good circuit for us so we will see."



THIRSTY: Byrne wants to get back to winning ways

Sevenoaks golfer picked for team

KENT golfer Richard Partridge has been chosen as one of the six-man team that will represent England in the European senior men's team championship.

The Wildernesse Golf Club in Sevenoaks is home to the champion golfer, who is the Scottish and Irish titleholder.

He'll be joined by two other champions on the team - double European senior champion Clive Jones and Surrey's Ian Attoe, the English senior champion.

The team will travel to Pravet's, in Bulgaria, to play in the championship which will run from September 1 to 5.

They will also play in the Senior Men's Home Internationals, which will be played at Crowborough Beacon in Sussex.

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£7,600



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Nissan Note 1.6 16v N-Tec+ 5dr
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£8,000



13 63 Registered
Renault Clio 1.2 16v Dynamique
18523 miles
£8,300



12 12 Registered
Vauxhall Zafira 1.6 i VVT Design 16v
14213 miles
£8,300





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£9,000



12 12 Registered
Nissan Qashqai 1.6 Acenta 5dr
32962 miles
£9,500



12 12 Registered
Nissan Juke 1.6 16v Acenta Pre
37511 miles
£9,800



14 14 Registered
Suzuki Swift 1.6 Sport 3dr
11402 miles
£10,000



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8180 miles
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13 63	**Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE 5d,** 17198 miles	£7,749
13 63	**Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE 5d,** 16041 miles	£7,782
13 63	**Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE 5d,** 15449 miles	£7,795
13 63	**Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE 5d,** 14246 miles	£7,830
14 14	**Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE 5d,** 11872 miles	£7,916
14 14	**Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE 5d,** 8965 miles	£8,000
12 62	**Vauxhall Astra 1.4 i VVT 16v S Exclusiv,** 10703 miles	£8,582
14 14	**Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SRi 3,** 16527 miles	£8,647
14 14	**Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SRi 3,** 12709 miles	£8,778
14 64	**Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE 5d,** 15173 miles	£8,809
14 64	**Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE 5d,** 14825 miles	£8,819
13 13	**Vauxhall Meriva 1.4 i 16v Exclsiv,** 8361 miles	£8,830
13 13	**Vauxhall Astra 1.6 i VVT 16v Se Tourer,** 38170 miles	£8,893
13 13	**Vauxhall Astra 1.6 i VVT 16v SE Tourer,** 35594 miles	£9,000
13 63	**Vauxhall Astra 1.6 i VVT 16v Energy,** 9713 miles	£9,371
14 64	**Vauxhall Astra 1.6 i VVT 16v Sri,** 14007 miles	£10,112
14 64	**Vauxhall Astra 1.6 i VVT 16v Sri,** 12883 miles	£10,164
14 64	**Vauxhall Astra 1.6 i VVT 16v Sri,** 12695 miles	£10,172
14 64	**Vauxhall Astra 1.6 i VVT 16v Sri,** 12630 miles	£10,172
13 63	**Vauxhall Zafira 1.8 I Design VVT 16v,** 20969 miles	£10,198
14 64	**Vauxhall Astra 1.6 i VVT 16v Sri,** 11780 miles	£10,203
14 64	**Vauxhall Astra 1.6 i VVT 16v Sri.** 11529 miles	£10,212
14 64	**Vauxhall Astra 1.6 i VVT 16v Sri,** 10627 miles	£10,247
14 64	**Vauxhall Astra 1.6 i VVT 16v Sri,** 10117 miles	£10,265
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12 12	**Vauxhall Astra 1.6 i Turbo 16v,** 9609 miles	£10,397
13 13	**Vauxhall Astra GTC 1.6 i Turbo,** 29540 miles	£10,438
14 14	**Vauxhall Zafira 1.8 i VVT Design 16v,** 15252 miles	£10,676
14 14	**Vauxhall Zafira 1.8 i VVT Exclusiv 16v,** 10410 miles	£10,732
14 14	**Vauxhall Astra GTC 1.4 Turbo,** 16460 miles	£10,824
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14 14	**Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi Sri ecoflex,** 18564 miles	£12,839
13 13	**Vauxhall Mokka 1.7 CDTi 16v Tech Line,** 17471 miles	£13,218
14 14	**Vauxhall Mokka 1.7 CDTi SE ecoFLEX,** 12357 miles	£13,659
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14 14	**Vauxhall Mokka 1.4 Turbo SE 16v,** 16216 miles	£13,764
14 64	**Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi Sri ecoflex,** 13245 miles	£15,796
14 64	**Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi Sri ecoflex,** 12767 miles	£15,827
14 64	**Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi Sri ecoflex,** 10043 miles	£15,988

BMW

11 11	**BMW 1 Series 2.0 118d M Sport,** 20001 miles	£14,000
13 63	**BMW 1 Series 1.6 114d Urban Sp,** 7592 miles	£14,597
11 11	**BMW 1 Series 2.0 118d M Sport,** 30124 miles	£14,853
12 62	**BMW 3 Series 2.0 318d SE 4dr,** 14243 miles	£15,085
12 12	**BMW X1 2.0 xDrive20d M Sport 5,** 15078 miles	£16,663
12 12	**BMW X1 2.0 sDrive20d M Sport 5,** 13368 miles	£17,246

Chevrolet

13 63	**Chevrolet Spark 1.0 LS 5dr,** 19828 miles	£5,108
13 63	**Chevrolet Spark 1.2 LTZ 5dr,** 28667 miles	£5,320
12 12	**Chevrolet Cruze 1.6 LT 5dr,** 11632 miles	£6,846
12 12	**Chevrolet Cruze 1.8 LTZ 5dr,** 29111 miles	£7,093

Citroen

11 61	**Citroen Berlingo Multispace 1.** 15326 miles	£7,934
12 12	**Citroen C3 Picasso 1.6 VTi Exc,** 26195 miles	£8,349
13 13	**Citroen C3 1.4 e-HDi Airdream,** 6315 miles	£8,917

Dacia

14 14	**Dacia Sandero 1.2 16v Ambiance,** 4373 miles	£6,420

Ford

12 62	**Ford Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 3dr,** 21855 miles	£7,372
12 12	**Ford Focus 1.6 Ti-VCT Zetec Po,** 16336 miles	£9,159
13 13	**Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec Powershift,** 30023 miles	£9,164
13 13	**Ford B-Max 1.4 Zetec 5dr,** 4325 miles	£9,274
12 12	**Ford Focus 1.6 Ti-VCT Titanium,** 15229 miles	£9,744
13 13	**Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec,** 13607 miles	£10,090
12 12	**Ford C-Max 1.6 Titanium 5dr,** 15539 miles	£10,622
15 15	**Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 5dr,** 7438 miles	£10,664
15 15	**Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 5dr,** 7250 miles	£10,674
15 15	**Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 5dr,** 6562 miles	£10,711
15 15	**Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 5dr,** 6126 miles	£10,731
12 62	**Ford C-Max 1.6 TDCi Zetec 5dr,** 22078 miles	£11,078

Hyundai

13 13	**Hyundai ix35 1.7 CRDi 16v Indi,** 26977 miles	£13,462

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12 12	**Kia Picanto 1.25 2 5dr,** 46556 miles	£6,830
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15 15	**MG MG3 1.5 VTi-Tech 3Form Sport** (White), 40 miles	£9,540
15 15	**MG MG3 1.5 VTi-Tech 3Form Sport** (White), 40 miles	£9,540
15 15	**MG MG3 1.5 VTi-Tech 3Form Sport** (Red), 40 miles	£9,540
15 15	**MG MG3 1.5 VTi-Tech 3Form Sport** (Black), 40 miles	£9,540

MINI

10 10	**MINI Hatch Cooper 1.6 Cooper 3,** 41369 miles	£7,406
12 12	**MINI Hatch Cooper 1.6 Cooper L,** 45861 miles	£9,785
12 12	**MINI Countryman 1.6 Cooper** Pepper Pack, 7944 miles	£12,733
14 64	**MINI Hatch Cooper 1.5 (s/s) Co,** 900 miles	£15,180

Nissan

13 13	**Nissan Note 1.6 16v N-Tec+ 5dr,** 5900 miles	£8,000
12 12	**Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi Acenta,** 66497 miles	£9,633
13 13	**Nissan Juke 1.6 16v Visia 5dr,** 14910 miles	£9,675
13 13	**Nissan Juke 1.6 16v Visia 5dr,** 8336 miles	£9,861
13 13	**Nissan Juke 1.6 16v Acenta 5dr,** 16894 miles	£10,009
12 12	**Nissan Juke 1.6 16v Acenta Pre,** 30585 miles	£10,028
12 12	**Nissan Qashqai 1.6 Acenta 5dr,** 28041 miles	£10,394
12 12	**Nissan Qashqai 1.6 Acenta 5dr,** 19806 miles	£10,653
12 12	**Nissan Qashqai 1.6 Acenta 5dr,** 17439 miles	£10,733
12 12	**Nissan Qashqai 1.6 Acenta 5dr,** 16147 miles	£10,769
12 12	**Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi Acenta,** 28533 miles	£10,873
12 12	**Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi Acenta,** 22913 miles	£11,000
12 12	**Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi Acenta,** 21056 miles	£11,119
12 12	**Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi Acenta,** 13982 miles	£11,355
12 12	**Nissan Qashqai+2 1.6 dCi Acent,** 16127 miles	£12,328
12 12	**Nissan Qashqai+2 1.6 N-Tec 5dr,** 21542 miles	£12,512
12 12	**Nissan Qashqai+2 1.6 N-Tec 5dr,** 19946 miles	£12,581
14 14	**Nissan Juke 1.6 Tekna 5dr,** 14650 miles	£12,700
12 12	**Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi N-Tec+,** 26555 miles	£12,845
12 12	**Nissan Qashqai+2 1.6 N-Tec 5dr,** 31604 miles	£12,960
12 12	**Nissan Qashqai+2 1.6 N-Tec 5dr,** 30926 miles	£13,258
12 12	**Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi N-Tec+,** 13204 miles	£13,361
12 12	**Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi N-Tec+,** 10529 miles	£13,458
12 12	**Nissan Qashqai 2.0 N-TEC+ 5dr,** 24709 miles	£14,000
13 63	**Nissan Qashqai 1.6 dCi Tekna 5,** 41306 miles	£14,746
14 14	**Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi Acenta,** 3847 miles	£16,883
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13 13	**Peugeot 107 1.0 12v Active 5dr,** 26071 miles	£5,246
13 13	**Peugeot 107 1.0 12v Active 5dr,** 23177 miles	£5,309
13 13	**Peugeot 107 1.0 12v Allure 5dr,** 25666 miles	£5,456
13 13	**Peugeot 107 1.0 12v Allure 5dr,** 25427 miles	£5,464
12 62	**Peugeot 208 1.4 HDi FAP Access,** 53290 miles	£6,681
13 13	**Peugeot 3008 1.6 e-HDi FAP Acc,** 15160 miles	£14,167

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14 64	**Renault Clio 1.2 16v Dynamique,** 6867 miles	£9,591
13 63	**Renault Captur 0.9 TCe Dynamiq,** 11160 miles	£12,000
14 14	**Renault Captur 1.5 dCi ENERGY,** 13074 mile	£12,182
14 64	**Renault Captur 1.5 dCi ENERGY,** 13042 miles	£12,243

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14 64	**Skoda Yeti Outdoor 2.0 TDI CR,** 9775 miles	£14,814

Smart

14 14	**Smart fortwo 1.0 MHD Passion S,** 7621 mile	£7,489

Subaru

14 64	**Subaru Forester 2.0 D X 5dr,** 1001 miles	£18,500
14 64	**Subaru Outback 2.0 D SX Linear,** 14419 mile	£21,000
15 15	**Subaru XV 2.0 i Lineartronic 5,** 1001 miles	£21,000
14 64	**Subaru Forester 2.0 D XC 5dr,** 2000 miles	£21,800
15 15	**Subaru XV 2.0 SE Premium AWD 5,** 1001 miles	£25,500
15 15	**Subaru Outback 2.0 D SE 5dr,** 1500 miles	£26,000

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12 62	**Suzuki Swift 1.6 Sport 3dr,** 38854 miles	£8,493

Toyota

12 12	**Toyota Yaris 1.33 VVT-i TR 5dr,** 54399 miles	£6,274
12 12	**Toyota Yaris 1.33 VVT-i TR 3dr,** 19052 miles	£6,627
13 13	**Toyota Yaris 1.33 VVT-i SR 3dr,** 9368 miles	£8,649
14 64	**Toyota AYGO 1.0 x-pression (In - Wave),** 10216 miles	£9,300
14 64	**Toyota AYGO 1.0 x-pression (In - Wave),** 9770 miles	£9,325
14 64	**Toyota AYGO 1.0 x-pression (In - Wave),** 7783 miles	£9,398

Volkswagen

11 61	**Volkswagen Polo 1.4 Match DSG, 59040 miles**	£8,000
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